

## Fahd receives Raimond

JEDDAH (R) — King Fahd had talks on Monday with French Foreign Minister Jean-Bernard Raimond, who carried a message for the Saudi Arabian monarch from France's Prime Minister Jacques Chirac. The Saudi Press Agency (SPA), which reported the meeting, gave no details. Mr. Raimond is on his first visit to the kingdom since Mr. Chirac's conservative government came to power in March. The French minister, who arrived here Sunday night, earlier discussed what he called the dangerous situation created by the Iran-Iraq war with Saudi Foreign Minister Prince Saud Al Faisal. Their talks also covered the Middle East situation "where France is always committed to the general interest," SPA quoted him as saying. Press reports in the Gulf have said Riyadh wanted to discuss France's stand on the conflict in view of the French government's apparent desire to improve relations with Iran.

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## Unions accept Thatcher's strike

BRIGHTON, England (R) — Britain's organised labour movement voted on Monday to abide by controversial legislation passed by the Conservative government requiring secret ballots before strike action. It was the first time Trades Union Congress (TUC) had voted to accept any union reform laws introduced by Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher's government since it came to power in 1979. TUC officials said the decision at the start of the 118th annual TUC conference represented the first concrete evidence that the 9.5 million member movement was serious in its bid to close ranks behind the opposition Labour Party led by Neil Kinnock and help oust Mrs. Thatcher. A general election is widely expected next year, though Mrs. Thatcher's second term is not due to run out until June, 1988.

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## King contacts Iraqi president

AMMAN (J.T.) — His Majesty King Hussein on Monday contacted Iraqi President Saddam Hussein over the phone to inquire about the situation on the northern Iraqi-Iranian war front which was the target for a new Iranian offensive on Monday. President Hussein told the King that the Iraqi forces had crushed the attacking Iranian soldiers and inflicted heavy losses on them and captured a large number of them. The Iraqi president assured King Hussein of Iraq's strong position and said any new Iranian offensive would face the same destiny.

## Dubai-Amman flights resumed

AMMAN (Petra) — Flights between the United Arab Emirates and Jordan resumed on Monday when an Emirates plane landed at Queen Alia International Airport. The plane was received by the deputy director general of sales and marketing of Alia, the Royal Jordanian Airline, Akel Biltaji and Ahmed Quntar, director general of Alia for airport services. Resumption of Dubai-Amman flights followed an agreement which was recently concluded between Alia and the UAE airline, whereby Alia would operate one flight to Dubai every day while the UAE airline would operate two flights a week.

## Sudan to reopen Tehran embassy

NICOSIA (AP) — Sudan will shortly reopen its embassy in Tehran to end a three-year rift with Iran over the support the ousted Khartoum regime of Jaafar Numeiri gave to Iraq in the Gulf war, Iran's official news agency reported Monday. The Islamic Republic News Agency, quoted Sudan's Minister of Energy and Mining (Adam Musa Madhub) as saying the embassy would reopen within two months.

## Britain tightens visa controls

LONDON (R) — Britain decided to tighten visa controls for visitors from West Africa and the Indian subcontinent, official government sources said. The cabinet agreed to impose a visa regime on all visitors from India, Pakistan, Bangladesh, Ghana and Nigeria following complaints of chaos at passport control at London's Heathrow airport. Non-immigrant travellers from these countries had previously been entitled to visit Britain without first obtaining visas but huge queues had built up because of the problem of vetting them.

## Bombs rock Portuguese resort

LISBON (R) — Bombs damaged three tourist complexes on Portugal's Algarve coast on Monday, raising fears of a campaign of violence against holiday resorts similar to one in Spain by Basque guerrillas, local officials said. No-one was hurt in the blasts, which occurred within minutes of each other in the reception offices of three villa complexes at Praia de Lobo, Vilamoura and Praia do Vau, west of Faro.

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# Iraq reports checking major Iranian offensive

BAHRAIN (Agencies) — Iraq said on Monday its forces had checked a major overnight Iranian offensive into northern Iraq with heavy enemy casualties.

The Iraqi News Agency (INA) quoted a military spokesman as saying three Iranian divisions took part in the attack on the strategic Haj Omran area, north of Baghdad.

Iranian leaders for some months past have been threatening a major offensive to "finish off" the war, now entering its seventh year.

The Baghdad spokesman said the Iranian attack at 1:00 a.m. was centred on the strategic mountain peak of Karamand overlooking Haj Omran town and the Gardako Mountain in the same area.

He said troops of the Iraqi Fifth Army Corps "destroyed the attacking forces" within a few hours, "crushing the major part of the Iranian troops while the rest withdrew."

Thousands of Iranians were killed and many were captured and Iraqi troops, backed by the air force and artillery, were now chasing the retreating remnants, he added.

Karamand was recaptured by Iraq in May this year after about

three years of occupation by Iranian forces.

The Iraqi spokesman said the battle clearly reflected Iraq's superiority and an Iraqi victory in the ensuing battles would be decisive and final — phraseology which suggested that fighting was continuing.

Iran claimed its forces have captured seven strategic heights in Monday's offensive.

Tehran's official Islamic Republic News Agency (IRNA) said large Iranian forces have pushed "deep inside Iraq" in the Haj Omran region.

The agency quoted a military spokesman as saying the Iranians have punched through Iraq fortifications and were shelling roads in the Haj Omran basin from the mountains overlooking the region in Kurdistan.

The Iranians gave no indication of the size of the assault force.

The Iraqi News Agency said Iraq's powerful air force, which outnumbers Iran's air strength by 10-1, destroyed four helicopters

and knocked out hundreds of vehicles and weapons in low-level raids.

There was no independent confirmation of the claims by either side. Iran and Iraq only rarely allow reporters or other observers to visit the frontlines in the six-year-old Gulf war.

IRNA also reported that more than 100 Iraqis were killed or wounded in "two counter-offensives" in the Bakhtarann and Ilam sectors of central front south of Haj Omran that were repulsed.

Iranian communiques gave no indication whether the attacks were part of the "final offensive" Iranian leaders have been warning for weeks was imminent.

Military analysts have long believed the decisive battles in the gruelling Gulf war, which enters its seventh year this month (See page 2), will be fought in the desert flatlands of the central and southern sectors of the 1,800 kilometre front.

Iraq's two largest cities, Baghdad and Basra, are in these sectors and are vulnerable to attack.

Earlier reports indicated that the bulk of the Iranian forces were massed mainly in the central and southern sectors.

## Murphy due in Amman today

By P.V. Vivekanand  
Jordan Times Staff Writer

AMMAN — U.S. Assistant Secretary of State Richard Murphy is scheduled to arrive here Tuesday to seek ways to revive the stalled Middle East peace process, informed sources said Monday.

Mr. Murphy arrived Israel late Monday. He was expected to meet Israeli leaders before arriving in Amman, the sources said.

The sources did not say what specific topics were expected to be discussed during Mr. Murphy's visit to Jordan and other countries in the Middle East but it was believed that the U.S. official was seeking ways to resume efforts towards settling the Arab-Israeli conflict.

Mr. Murphy, who is also expected to visit Egypt, last visited the Middle East along with U.S. Vice-President George Bush in late July and early August.

Mr. Murphy's latest visit to the region comes amid intensified diplomatic moves by the Soviet Union towards convening an international conference on the Arab-Israeli conflict and

stepped-up efforts by Israeli Prime Minister Shimon Peres to bring about broader peace talks after the planned Egypt-Israel summit, tentatively scheduled to be held next week.

The planned meeting between Mr. Peres and Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak is contingent on Egypt and Israel reaching agreement on their dispute over the Taba border enclave in the Sinai.

Mr. Peres on Monday dispatched cabinet minister Ezer Weizman to West Germany and Italy to brief Chancellor Helmut Kohl and Premier Bettino Craxi on plans for the meeting with Mr. Mubarak.

Mr. Peres wants to add new momentum to Mideast peace talks before he hands over premiership to Foreign Minister Yitzhak Shamir, leader of the Likud bloc, in October under a rotation agreement between Mr. Peres' Labour Party and the Likud.

However, Mr. Shamir on Sunday appeared to be unhappy over Mr. Peres' efforts. In a radio interview Sunday night, he said normalising relations with Egypt should be Israel's top priority

rather than trying to expand the scope of peace talks with other Arab states.

"There is no point in talking peace with other countries before peace with Egypt is consolidated," Mr. Shamir told Israel Radio.

Definite signs of a renewed Soviet interest in efforts towards settling the Arab-Israeli conflict came when Soviet Deputy Foreign Minister Yuri Vorontsov visited Jordan earlier this week. The King, Prime Minister Zaid Rifai and other senior officials held talks with Mr. Vorontsov.

Informed sources said the Soviet minister's talks here indicated a "significant change" in Moscow's stand towards the Mideast conflict and Jordan was "highly satisfied" with the outcome of Mr. Vorontsov's visit.

On Sunday, the King sent a message to Mr. Mubarak on the results of Mr. Vorontsov's visit. The message was delivered to Mr. Mubarak in Alexandria by Mr. Rifai.

According to the sources in Amman, Mr. Vorontsov indicated, during his talks here,

(Continued on page 3)

## Walters: No U.S. demands made on Europe

MADRID (R) — U.S. envoy Vernon Walters, on the first stop of a European tour, said Monday he had come to discuss the struggle against "terrorism" but was not making any demand on Washington's allies.

"We discussed matters of common interest, including the struggle against terrorism throughout the world. I have not come to make any demands," he told reporters after meeting Spanish Foreign Minister Francisco Fernandez Ordóñez.

U.S. officials have said Mr. Walters will press European allies and Canada for sanctions against Libya, which Washington accuses of planning fresh "terrorist attacks."

Mr. Walters, U.S. ambassador to the United Nations, said the meeting, which extended beyond the scheduled half hour to 70 minutes, was friendly and useful. He repeated in English his brief statement in Spanish.

Mr. Fernandez Ordóñez said Mr. Walters had given a detailed account of international cooperation against terrorism.

He said he repeated Spain's stand of "full solidarity against terrorism within the norms of international law."

## Qadhafi claims full Soviet support and warns U.S.

TRIPOLI (Agencies) — Libyan leader Muammar Qadhafi started an 18th year in power on Monday with a warning to the United States that his country has full Soviet backing.

In a defiant speech to mark the anniversary of Libya's revolution, Colonel Qadhafi heaped praises on Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev and called U.S. President Ronald Reagan "Israel's crazy dog."

"One is sane, the other is crazy. One is responsible, the other irresponsible. One is worthy, the other not worthy of leading a superpower," Col. Qadhafi told more than 5,000 supporters on Tripoli's main square.

It was his first public speech in the capital since U.S. planes bombed his home and other targets on April 15. The United States has said it will strike again if Libya is linked to new terrorist attacks. Libya denies any involvement in terrorism.

Col. Qadhafi said the Soviet Union, which condemned the April raids but did not intervene, would stand behind Libya in the event of a new U.S. attack. "The Soviet Union is behind us with all its power," he said.

Moscow, which sent First Vice-President Pyotr Demichev to the anniversary celebrations, is one of Libya's major arms suppliers. But it has held back from signing a friendship treaty with Libya.

In a message marking the

anniversary, the praesidium of the Soviet Supreme (Parliament) spoke of Libya's "courageous resistance to aggression" and "ability to counter hostile attacks by imperialist forces."

The message, as released in Moscow, made no commitment to Libya.

In his three-hour speech on Monday, Col. Qadhafi, wearing khaki combat fatigues and gesturing with a metal pointer, said he was prepared to die as a "martyr in a sacrificial cause." He compared himself with the late Chilean President Salvador Allende and Che Guevara.

The speech began Sunday night and lasted into the early hours of Monday.

"If Reagan doesn't stop his stupidities I will form an international army to fight America everywhere and I'm sure that in a few years the world will be rid of this new Nazi empire," Col. Qadhafi said.

Such a force would be drawn from Central America, Africa and Asia, he said, and be composed of tens of thousands of fighters.

Col. Qadhafi said Libya opposed terrorism and challenged the United States to provide proof of Libyan involvement in planning terrorist attacks.

"I can form an army outside Libya... and this army will spread out in all corners of the globe to destroy the American presence everywhere, and then we will announce every operation," Col. Qadhafi said.

# King visits Amman Municipality, voices satisfaction with its services

AMMAN (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein on Monday voiced satisfaction with and admiration of the services offered by Amman Municipality in the various regions of the capital.

The King was speaking during a visit he paid to the offices of Amman Municipality. He called on the municipal council to develop the municipality's facilities and services to cope with the increasing requirements of citizens living in Amman and its suburbs.

Amman Mayor Abdul Raouf Al Rawabdeh briefed the King on Amman Municipality's services and its plans for the next five years, particularly in relation to the Greater Amman project. The mayor also spoke about plans to develop Amman Downtown, and to build a national park which

would include an artificial lake and a zoo.

Mr. Rawabdeh also briefed the King on Amman Municipality's plans to construct road intersections and on current projects and future plans. He said the municipality planned to construct intersections at the rate of four every year and these, when completed, would offer a new inlet and outlet for the capital.

Prime Minister Zaid Rifai and Royal Court Chief Marwan Al Qasem accompanied the King on his visit to Amman Municipality.

The King later toured some parts of Amman. The tour included Jabal Amman, the area allocated for building the planned national park, Jabal Al Zuhour, Hay Al Shiekh, Yarmouk Street, Jabal Al Manara, Jabal Al Nasr, Prince Hassan Camp, Mahatta.



His Majesty King Hussein confers with Amman Mayor Abdul Ra'ouf Al Rawabdeh during a visit he paid to Amman Municipality on Monday accompanied by Prime Minister Zaid Rifai and Royal Court Chief Marwan Al Qasem (Petra photo).

Marka, North Hashmiah, the and Al Raya Al Hashmiah Sports City area and Al Hamzeh gardens.

# Muasher: Government is determined to overcome economic difficulties

By Jordan Times Staff Reporters

AMMAN — Minister of Industry, Trade and Supply Rajai Muasher said on Monday the government was determined to overcome the present economic difficulties through a well-defined strategy and was confident of reactivating the economy and putting it back on the course of stable and sustained growth.

Dr. Muasher, speaking at the weekly "Monday press circle" attended by 30 local Arab and foreign journalists, made a comprehensive review of the government's present and future economic programmes and spoke at length about its recent measures to revitalise the economy.

Following the review, Dr. Muasher answered questions put to him by the journalists attending the luncheon and briefed them on various aspects of the country's economy and the government's priorities.

The Monday press circle is organised by the Department of Press and Publications of the Ministry of Information and hosts senior officials every week.

In response to a question on whether there were any external considerations prompting the Cabinet's recent decision to transform a number of public agencies into shareholding companies operating on commercial basis Dr. Muasher said: "The decision was not dictated to us. We are simply responding to local demand."

Dr. Muasher added that recommendations by the Royal Commission for Administrative Development (RCAD) were a major force behind the government's decision to change the status of some government-owned institutions to open the way for the private sector to own part of the capital in some of them.

The commission was set up to study means of improving the efficiency of the public sector and its organisations.

The RCAD studied the performance of some government-owned agencies, which had not been performing efficiently due to bureaucratic procedures included in a set of laws governing the corporations, Dr. Muasher explained. Giving examples of two public organisations, the Telecommunications Corporation (TCC) and the Public Transport Corporation (PTC) which are under consideration for a change in status, Dr. Muasher said that the TCC was returning an annual investment of three per cent on its paid up capital, while the PTC was only showing 25 per cent of its total productivity. He put the TCC's annual profit at JD 20 million.

Dr. Muasher said the Cabinet decision was based on a two-pronged approach: Firstly, a government institution would be transformed into a public shareholding company with 100 per cent of the shares owned by the government and secondly, there would be some public agencies where private sector participation will be allowed. In this way, government institutions would be freed from bureaucratic procedures since they would be

run by their own board of directors, said the minister, describing the importance of the transformation as a "qualitative step" to improve performance, services and efficiency.

He said that to date, the Cabinet has taken no decision to transform any of the public organisations. "We have accepted the principle of transformation, but we have not agreed on any specific case," Dr. Muasher said.

He indicated that Alia, the Royal Jordanian Airline, the TCC and the PTC were under consideration for a change in status.

Dr. Muasher refuted a suggestion that the transformation of government institutions into shareholding companies meant that the public sector's efficiency was less than average in running the agencies. "Our decision does not mean that we are contesting the public sector's efficiency. In simple terms, the laws governing the institutions are impeding the improvement of the agencies' services," he said.

Increased profitability, more efficiency as well as flexibility in both decision making and execution were the main reasons for changing a company's status, said the minister. "The government does not want services, consumers or employees to be compromised in any transformation," he added.

The Cabinet, Dr. Muasher said, had made it clear in its statement that the transformation should be a stage-by-stage process, after intensive studies have been presented and after working out a programme of priorities and defining the means of implementation.

He added that each government department was asked to present the Prime Ministry with a list of institutions that could be transformed and a set of proposals on how the decision on transformation could be carried out.

"There is no pre-conceived government idea to transform any public agency," he said. "Each department will contribute to the decision and all aspects will be considered before any order of transformation is issued."

On Jordanian-Syrian trade relations, Dr. Muasher said they were moving ahead "although they're not moving as fast as expected because of technical problems."

"The problem of foreign currency exchange is a problem which is faced by all Arab countries," said the minister.

However, Jordan and Syria were cooperating on barter trade, with the Kingdom exporting agricultural produce and importing Syrian agricultural commodities, he said, pointing out that the two capitals have already organised exhibitions of their respective industrial products, he pointed out.

On Jordan's first-ever draft law for organising industries, Dr. Muasher said the draft was presented to the Prime Ministry in less than a month before it is submitted to parliament for debate. The draft law, he said, is designed to organise industries licensing in the Kingdom and allows for the setting up of individually-owned companies.

Commenting on Jordan's intention to establish new industrial projects in the West Bank within the current five-year development plan, Dr. Muasher said that such industries would have to comply with Jordanian boycott laws against Israel. He said that these industries "would follow the same procedures and regulations" as industries in the Kingdom.

On West Bank industries' rights to market their products in Jordan, Dr. Muasher said capital goods for the setting up of the industry would have to be imported from the Kingdom. He said raw materials for these industries would also have to come through Jordanian ports.

Replying to a question on whether the government here would exempt West Bank industries from paying custom duties on the imported machinery and raw material if these were also taxed by the Israeli government, the minister said the government would "study the situation and consider decisions to keep these industries profitable."

Asked to comment on reports that there had been an increase in the number of expatriates

returning to Jordan and the effect this would have on remittances collected by customs officials, only 428 families had returned from the Gulf this year. "This figure," he said, "does not represent a significant increase in comparison with previous years."

Dr. Muasher added that the Labour Minister Khaled Al Haj Hassan had visited several countries in the Gulf and was assured by officials there that "Jordanians employed in the public sector would not lose their jobs."

He said he was not aware of any decision by the Kuwaiti government to terminate the contracts of 30,000 Jordanians working there. Press reports had recently published unofficial stories to that effect.

Replying to a question, the minister said the government had not adopted any decision to open branches of Jordanian banks in the occupied West Bank. However, he said, the government would only allow branches to open provided they comply with Jordanian banking regulations.

"In the case of approval, these banks would have to comply with Central Bank (of Jordan) regulations, just like any other bank in the East Bank," Dr. Muasher explained. He added that every financial institution in the occupied territories "would have to be licensed by the Central Bank."

Referring to a public request for specifications on imported products, the minister said that in the past, countries had been exporting products to Jordan which were not marketable in the country of origin. He added that the ministry has recently enforced a law banning products which are not licensed to be marketed in the country of origin.

On protective measures against the importation of potentially contaminated products, the minister said that because of Jordan's lack of experience in the field of testing contaminated commodities, the ministry was

(Continued from page 3)

# Gandhi calls on nuclear powers to follow Soviet moratorium

HARARE (Agencies) — India's Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi on Monday urged all nuclear nations to follow the Soviet Union in declaring a moratorium on tests and said he hoped a U.S.-Soviet summit later this year would help eliminate nuclear weapons.

Within hours of handing over leadership of the Non-Aligned Movement to Zimbabwean Prime Minister Robert Mugabe, Mr. Gandhi spoke eloquently of its commitment to peace.

"The world can survive only by giving up confrontation and by eradicating fear, hate and disparity," he told the eighth summit conference on the 25th anniversary of the 101-member organisation.

The Non-Aligned Movement welcomed the Soviet decision to extend its nuclear test moratorium to January next year. Mr. Gandhi told the conference, attended by almost 50 national leaders.

"A great responsibility rests on the leaders of the United States and the Soviet Union. We hope they will meet before the end of the year and take specific measures to reduce, and eventually eliminate, nuclear weapons."

"Nuclear confrontation must not be allowed to move into new dimensions."

Mr. Gandhi praised the Soviet Union which he said had responded to a call from a group of six nations that met in New Delhi

last year to adopt a moratorium on testing.

Nicaraguan President Daniel Ortega, pressing his bid to be the next chairman of the Non-Aligned Movement, told the summit on Monday that his nation has been the target of U.S. "aggression, intervention and interference."

Palestine Liberation Organisation leader Yasser Arafat, in an emotional address to the summit, described the South African and Israeli governments as joint perpetrators of "imperialism, Zionism and racial discrimination."

Mr. Mugabe said he was beginning his three-year term of office conscious of his duty to all the group's diverse members.



## Fighting in Lebanon claims 95 lives in August

### Troops on alert for Beirut peace talks

**BEIRUT (R) — Bomb attacks, an Israeli raid on Palestinian commandos, inter-Falangist feuding and fighting in the South accounted for 95 deaths in the Lebanon's civil war over the past month.**

Militia and hospital sources said this compared with 118 killed in July and marked the lowest monthly death toll since January when 350 people died.

Two car bomb attacks, one in mainly Muslim west Beirut and the other in the Christian sector of the capital, killed 33 people. Two other bombs left seven dead in east Beirut.

In South Lebanon, 14 people were killed when the Israeli-backed "South Lebanon Army" militia launched attacks on several villages following Lebanese guerrilla operations. Three SLA fighters died in the skirmishes, the sources said.

Three Muslim militiamen died in clashes between Shi'ite fighters and United Nations peacekeeping troops near the southern city of Tyre. An Irish member of the U.N. Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL) was killed in the area on Aug. 21.

Eight people were killed in an Israeli raid on Palestinian positions in east Lebanon's Bekaa Valley on Aug. 11, while feuding among Falangist militiamen in east Beirut claimed at least 13 lives over a two-week period.

Twelve others died in sporadic sniper and artillery exchanges across Beirut's "green line" divide, and a Christian army officer was gunned down by unidentified gunmen in the Bekaa on Aug. 11.

A 12-year-old girl died and several people were wounded when Israeli-backed militiamen shelled a South Lebanon village Sunday, state-owned Beirut Radio said.

Lebanese newspapers reported five people were injured when SLA gunmen fired artillery at Qabrakha village.

The French-language L'Orient Le Jour newspaper said SLA fighters also raked two nearby

hamlets with machinegun fire. No casualties were reported.

The SLA, together with about 1,000 Israeli troops and security men, hold a so-called "security zone" along Lebanon's southern border.

In Beirut, local radios said rival militias exchanged artillery, rocket and automatic fire overnight across the "green line" dividing the capital into Christian and Muslim areas. The radios did not mention any casualties.

In Beirut sharpshooters, heavily-armed troops and a bomb disposal team were put on alert Monday ahead of fresh cabinet talks aimed at ending civil war in Lebanon.

Security sources said special measures had been ordered for Tuesday's meeting of Falangist and opposition ministers close to the "green line".

"Only two roads, from east and west Beirut, will be left open," one source said. "High earth barriers are being built as a shield from sniper fire."

About 250 armed police drawn from Christian and Muslim communities are to guard the building where war-weary Lebanese hope the cabinet "dialogue committee" will agree a lasting ceasefire between warring militias, the sources said.

Soldiers from the army's mainly Shi'ite Sixth and the mainly Christian Ninth brigades will cordon off the area, while bomb disposal experts have been placed on stand-by after 24 bomb attacks killed some 160 people in Beirut this year.

Sharpshooters will take up positions on nearby rooftops shortly before the cabinet meets, the sources added.

Tuesday's talks follow an initiative launched by Sunni Premier Rashid Karami on Aug.

19, when he met two Christian ministers to end a nine-month cabinet rift.

Syrian President Hafez Al Assad, the key power broker in Lebanon, has pledged his support for the talks, which are expected to focus on a militia truce and possible political reforms designed to end 11 years of savage warfare.

Even if a durable ceasefire is achieved, analysts say considerable obstacles would still have to be overcome to expand the truce into long-term peace throughout the country.

Mr. Karami and Justice Minister Nabih Berri, who heads the Shi'ite Amal militia, have said the cabinet session will be based on the spirit of a Damascus-mediated peace pact signed last December.

The pact, agreed by Mr. Berri, Druze chief Walid Junblatt and former Falangist "Lebanese forces" militia commander Elie Hobeika, aimed at giving the opposition a greater role in government.

But Mr. Hobeika was toppled by hardline Falangist militiamen in January and the accord collapsed when Christian Maronite President Amin Gemayel refused to endorse it.

Falangist say they fear that Syria wants to stage a takeover of Lebanon, while some of the opposition believe Israel stands in the way of national reconciliation.

Mr. Berri said Sunday the cabinet peace talks should be based on an agreement to end all links with Israel, which holds a so-called border "security zone" in South Lebanon.

Lebanon was an Arab state and should have "distinctive relations with Syria", he added.

The French-language newspaper L'Orient Le Jour commented at the weekend that Lebanon still seeks "the magic formula which would allow it to pay the minimum price to two disturbing neighbours (Syria and Israel) in the way of safeguards."

## Gulf war enters 7th year with little prospect for peace

By Ian Mackenzie  
Renter

**BAHRAIN —** The Gulf war enters its seventh year this month, one of the longest-running conflicts this century, with Iran launching a fresh offensive against Iraq.

Diplomatic and military analysts see little prospect for a quick end to the war, which has exacted a massive human and economic toll.

"There is lots of speculation about what's going to happen, but the truth is that nobody knows what will happen," one Gulf-based diplomat commented. "Mediation efforts by a variety of bodies, from the United Nations to the Organisation of Islamic Conference and the Non-Aligned Movement, have failed to resolve a conflict which has split the Arab World."

Kuwait, on the doorstep of the southern front at the head of the Gulf, said last month further peace efforts were expected at a U.S.-Soviet summit scheduled for later this year.

U.S. officials in Washington say both sides agree the war is dangerous and should be stopped. But diplomats in the region questioned the effect of super-power intervention, noting that Iran's spiritual leader Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini has flatly rejected arbitration.

"We should submit neither to imposed peace, nor to imposed arbitration," Khomeini told Iranian leaders on Aug. 24.

"We should continue the war until victory — and it is near," he added.

President Saddam Hussein, warning Iran's leaders they could not end the war militarily, reiterated on Aug. 2 Iraq's peace conditions: Full, comprehensive and unconditional withdrawal of forces to recognised international borders, complete and comprehensive exchange of prisoners, non-interference in each other's internal affairs and respect for each other's choice of life.

Iran seeks a complete withdrawal of Iraqi troops, the onsting of the Iraqi government and massive reparations of many billions of dollars.

"The basic underlying realities are still there: Iraq calling for a negotiated settlement, Iran seeking total victory with the removal of Saddam Hussein, and the Gulf Arab countries uneasy speculations," one senior diplomatic source said.

The Gulf Arab states, together with most Arab nations, support Iraq, but Libya and Syria, with a

tradition of hostility towards the Iraqi leadership, back Iran. In a rare pragmatic argument against peace, Iranian Parliamentary Speaker Ali Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani questioned whether the present governments in Tehran and Baghdad could co-exist.

"Will the cold war die down? Can we say, with so many martyrs behind us, we made a mistake? Can Iraq confess it started the war? Both would have to spend all their existence on an arms race for decades, on bare their claws and fangs in the propaganda war to prove what they said before had been correct," he told a Friday prayers gathering.

On Aug. 24, he urged an all-out attack to prevent Iraq from reorganising its forces, joining other leaders in calling for a "decisive victory" by March next year.

Diplomatic sources in the region believe Iraq has the capacity to withstand militarily a major new Iranian thrust.

They said a strategy of strong defensive positions backed by artillery and tank batteries and air strikes is designed to cut Iraqi casualties. The psychological bill could be high, however, in the event of an Iranian drive into Iraq — possibly against the southern port of Basra, Iraq's second city.

But the sources also note that the Baghdad leadership weathered a potential political storm over the successful Iranian invasion in February of Iraq's southern Fao peninsula and Iran's recapture in July of its border town of Mehran. The town was taken by Iraq on May 17 in a blaze of publicity as a bargaining chip for Fao.

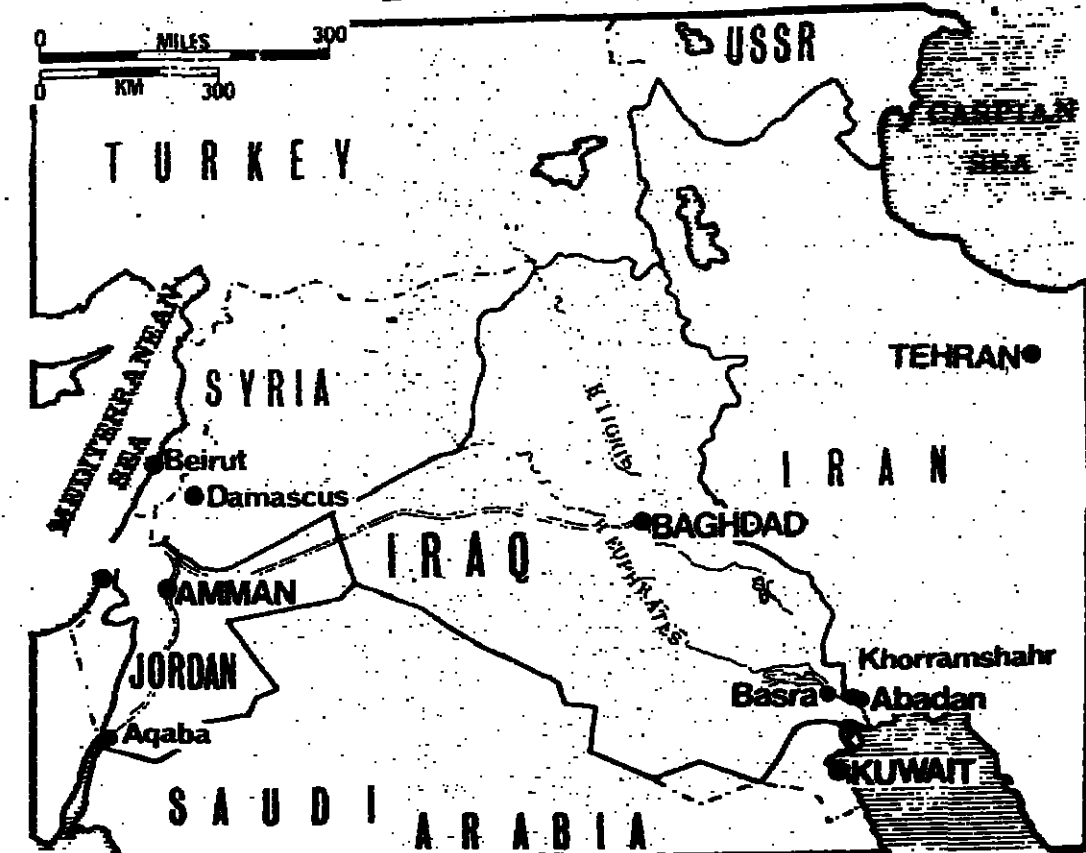
Anti-war dissent is not tolerated by the leaders of either side and it is difficult to gauge the level of dissatisfaction in the two countries. In Iran, for example, a willingness to fight is regarded as a test of revolutionary fervour.

The war between the two emergent regional powers broke out in 1980, with both sides differing over the precise timing. Iraq dates the conflict from border skirmishes it said were engineered by Iran at the beginning of the month. Iran says the war started with the Iraqi invasion on Sept. 23.

There is a long history of antagonism between the Arabs and Persians (Iranians).

Iraq, with a large Shi'ite Muslim population, and its Gulf Arab backers also feared a spread of Islamic fundamentalism and political instability following the 1979 revolution in Iran.

By 1982 a stalemate emerged



along the 750-mile (1,200 kilometre) front ranging from the rugged Kurdish mountains in the north to the central desert regions and the oil-rich marshes of the south.

Neither side has given its own casualty figures. American estimates place the Iranian toll at nearly 235,000 dead and 400,000 wounded, many in human-wave offensives, and the Iraqi toll at 80,000 dead and 170,000 wounded.

The International Committee of the Red Cross says Iraq holds more than 70,000 Iraqi prisoners-of-war and Iraq estimates 10,000-15,000 Iranians.

While Iraq has ready access to foreign military technology, including vital spares, from the Soviet Union and France in particular, more-isolated Iran has had to depend largely on the vagaries of the international arms market place for supplies.

There have been reports from the United States, however, of Chinese weaponry reaching Iran, while some Asian diplomats in the Gulf believe North Korea has also supplied arms.

The London-based International Institute for Strategic Studies (IISS) estimates the Iraqi Armed Forces at 520,000 men, including a regular army of 475,000, plus a para-military people's army of 650,000.

The IISS estimates the Iranian army at 250,000, with reserves of 350,000 and a Revolutionary Guards corps of 250,000. A recent mobilisation has added an estimated 500 battalions, or 150,000 men, with another 500 battalions planned, Tehran reports say.

Although the ground war remains relatively static, both sides have taken a heavy toll of shipping in the Gulf in the so-called tanker war.

Nearly 60 vessels, mostly tankers, have been damaged in the Gulf this year alone as Iraq tries to halt Iran's oil exports, vital for funding its war machine, and Iran retaliates against vessels using ports on the western, Arab side of the Gulf.

Iraqi air attacks on shipping and oil installations have drastically cut Iran's exports, Gulf industry sources say.

The economic bill for the two combatants, and for the smaller states at the periphery of the conflict, has been high — and has been aggravated by the oil price drop.

Iraq's pre-war foreign exchange reserves of some \$35 billion have fallen to less than \$1 billion, while Iran's built up debt of at least \$40 billion.

Iran, with its heartland further from the fighting, has avoided a heavy foreign debt by depending largely on its own resources, but

the collapse in oil prices has placed added pressures on the government.

"Ending the war victoriously is the key to solving all our difficulties," Iran's President Ali Khamenei told a gathering on Aug. 21.

The Arab states on the western side of the Gulf, some of whom like Kuwait and Saudi Arabia have provided hefty financial support for Iraq, are also feeling the economic pinch.

One effect of the conflict, however, has been to help push them together in the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC), an economic and military grouping comprising Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Bahrain, Qatar, the United Arab Emirates (UAE) and Oman.

A meeting of foreign and oil ministers of the six states on Aug. 26-27 pledged to maintain a united front against Iranian threats and told Tehran to stop what they called "illegitimate actions" against shipping in the Gulf, including inspection of cargo aboard foreign vessels.

A senior Arab political source said the Gulf states had little desire to see a clear-cut victory by either Iraq or Iran.

But he said "neither side will be in a position to impose itself for years to come. They will be too busy with their own reconstruction, and what we all need now is peace."

## Assad reportedly made secret visit to Moscow

**KUWAIT (AP) —** Syrian President Hafez Assad paid a secret visit to the Soviet Union last week, and told Kremlin leaders that the United States was preparing a strike against Libya to topple Col. Muammar Qadhafi, the Kuwaiti newspaper Al Qabas reported Monday.

"President Assad told Kremlin leaders that he received reliable information from a variety of sources, including highly-placed Egyptian officials, that the United States is planning a largescale attack on Libya to topple Col. Qadhafi," Al Qabas said in a frontpage dispatch from Damascus.

"The Syrian president was quite clear in communicating the message that the U.S. conquest of Libya will be followed by the

subjugation of Syria at the hand of the Israelis who plan a similar action against Damascus," the paper said, quoting unidentified Syrian sources.

It quoted Mr. Assad as cautioning "if Libya falls, the Kremlin will lose all its friends in the Middle East."

There was no comment from Damascus on the report in Al Qabas.

The Syrian president was in the Libyan city of Benghazi last week where he held a summit with Col. Qadhafi and affirmed Syrian support for Libya in case of a U.S. attack.

Syria is Moscow's chief Arab ally, and last week the Soviet First Deputy Foreign Minister Yuri Vorontsov was in Damascus for talks with Mr. Assad and his aides

on the situation in the Middle East.

Al Qabas quoted the Syrian sources as saying that Mr. Assad's visit to Moscow bore quick fruit, claiming that the Soviets intervened to enforce shifting the place of the recent American-Egyptian manoeuvres from the Gulf of Sirte, where it was originally planned, to a different site in the Mediterranean.

The United States has accused Libya of "instigating international terrorism" and last April sent its jet fighters raiding targets in and around Tripoli and Benghazi.

Al Qabas said the Soviets have since set up radar stations and surface-to-air missile batteries in Libya, in anticipation of a second U.S. air strike.

## Israeli police arrest 3 Jews for buying passports

**TEL AVIV (AP) —** Three orthodox Jews were arrested for buying passports from European backpackers and planning to use them for illegal entry into the Soviet Union, a police chief said Monday.

The three black-coated religious seminary students were arrested in the Red Sea beach resort of Eilat last week while

bargaining with several young tourists to buy their passports, said Eilat Police Chief Yeroham Kayam.

Kayam said the three men, aged 23 to 31, offered to pay \$220 for each passport. The three told police they sought the passports to enter the Soviet Union and worship at the tomb of a venerated rabbi buried there, Kayam said.

## Zimbabwean premier slams countries which have renewed ties with Israel

**HARARE (R) —** Zimbabwean Prime Minister Robert Mugabe has branded black African countries which restored diplomatic ties with Israel as "deviants, quislings and puppets."

Mugabe, who took over Monday as chairman of the Non-Aligned Movement, said the movement's position might not always be that of individual states.

But those countries which had renewed diplomatic relations with Israel were letting Africa and the Palestinian cause down, he said in a television interview Sunday night on the eve of the Third-World movement's eighth summit meeting.

In the most violent reaction to date by any leader to the resumption of ties with Israel by

four black African states, Mugabe said Zimbabwe viewed the move "with abhorrence."

"In the context of the Non-Aligned Movement and the Organisation of African Unity where a majority of people had decided on a revolutionary course, you will always find deviants, quislings and puppets," he said.

## TV & RADIO

**JORDAN TELEVISION**  
Tel: 77311-14

**PROGRAMME ONE**  
17:00 Koran  
17:30 Cartoons  
17:30 Children's programmes  
18:05 Walt Disney  
18:55 Computer World  
19:15 Religious programme (Fatawa)  
19:25 Progress report  
19:45 Figures and events  
20:00 News in Arabic  
20:40 Arabic series (Eps. 13)  
21:30 Our Industries  
22:00 Television magazine  
22:40 News summary in Arabic  
23:15 Signing off

**PROGRAMME TWO**  
18:00 Kiasme a Moudjah  
18:30 L'Vallee Des Papayes  
19:00 News in French  
19:15 Varieties  
19:30 News in Hebrew  
20:00 News in Arabic  
20:30 Music Box  
21:30 Alfred Hitchcock Present - An Unlocked Window  
22:00 News in English  
22:30 Magnum

**RADIO JORDAN**  
85.5 KHz. AM & 99 MHz. FM  
Tel: 77411-19

07:00 Light Music  
07:30 News Desk  
08:00 Morning Show  
08:05 News Summary  
11:00 Oriental Foods  
11:05 Pop Session Contd.  
11:30 Country Music  
12:00 News Summary  
12:05 Pop Session Contd.  
12:30 News Summary  
13:05 Pop Session Contd.  
14:00 News Bulletin  
14:10 Men from the Ministry  
14:50 News Summary  
15:00 News Summary  
15:05 Science Report  
15:30 Pop Session  
15:40 News Summary  
15:45 Top Twenty  
15:50 News Summary  
15:55 Date with a Star  
20:00 Evening Show  
21:00 News Summary  
21:05 Evening Show Contd.  
21:25 News Summary  
22:00 Evening Show Contd.  
22:40 News Summary  
23:00 Evening Show Contd.

**BBC WORLD SERVICE**  
639, 720, 1323 KHz

07:00 David Mamour 07:30 Joan Southern 07:45 Reflections 07:50 Financial News 08:00 World News 08:05 24 Hours 08:30 News Ideas 08:40 Book Choice 08:45 The World Today 09:00 Newsweek 09:30 Counterpoint 10:00 World News 10:05 24 Hours 10:30 News 10:35 Particular Place 10:45 Newsweek U.K. 11:00 World News 11:05 Reflections 11:15 Every Day A Holiday 11:30 List News 11:35 24 Hours 11:40 British Press Review 12:15 The World Today 12:30 Financial News: Look Ahead 12:45 Pled Piper 12:50 News Summary: Mission to Tunisia 12:55 The All You Think About 13:00 World News 14:00 News about Britain 14:15 Waveguide 14:25 A Letter from Scotland 14:30 Sports International 14:40 Radio 123 The Sky's The Limit 15:35 Personal Story 15:45 Sports Round-up 16:00 World News 16:05 24 Hours: News Summary 16:30 Network U.K. 16:45 Recording of the Week 17:00 Outlook 17:45 Joan Southern 18:00 Radio Newsweek 18:15 A Jolly Good Show 18:30 The Random Jottings of Hinge and Breadcut 18:40 World News 19:00 Commentary 19:15 Omnibus 19:45 The World Today 20:00 World News 20:05 A Letter from Scotland 20:15 News 20:45 Sports Round-up 21:00 Newsweek 21:30 Promenade Concert 21:40 The Evening World 22:25 News Summary: Outlook 22:30 Stock Market Report 22:40 World News 23:00 24 Hours News Summary 23:30 Richard Rodney Bennett Premiere 24:00 News Summary: On the Box 08:15 Book Choice

**VOICE OF AMERICA**  
MW 1200 (17740, 11925 and 15210 KHz)

07:00 News, Informal Presentation of Popular Music with Feature Reports, Interviews, Answers to Listeners' Questions, Science Reports, Sports News at 30 minutes past the hour. 18:00 News 18:10 Newsline 18:30 Music USA 19:00 News 19:10 Focus 19:30 Special English News & Features 20:00 News 20:10 Newsline 20:30 Magazine Show 21:00 News 21:10 Focus 21:30 Special English News & Features 22:00 News 22:10 Newsline 22:30 Music USA 23:00 News & Editorial 23:15 Music USA 23:30 24:00 News 24:10 World Report

## WHAT'S GOING ON

**TODAY'S EVENTS**

**CONFERENCES**

\* A four-day annual conference on International Association of Schools and Institutes of Administration, to be held at the Auditorium of University of Jordan's Engineering and Technology Faculty. The conference runs through Friday.

**FILMS**

\* Feature film, part 2 at 7:30 p.m. British Council.

**CULTURAL CENTRES**

Royal Cultural Centre Tel. 6610267  
American Centre Tel. 64371  
British Council Tel. 636147-8  
French Cultural Centre Tel. 637009  
Goethe Institute Tel. 641993  
Soviet Cultural Centre Tel. 644203  
Spanish Cultural Centre Tel. 620449  
Turkish Cultural Centre Tel. 637777  
Haya Arts Centre Tel. 645195  
Jordan Youth City Tel. 6471806  
Y.W.C.A. Tel. 644193  
Amman Municipal Library Tel. 657111  
University of Jordan Library Tel. 843555

**MUSEUMS**

Folklore Museum: Jewelry and costumes over 100 years old. Also souvenirs from Madaba and Jerash (4th to 18th centuries). The Roman Theatre, Amman. Opening hours: 9:00 a.m. - 5 p.m. Year-round. Tel. 651760.  
Jordan Archaeological Museum: Has an excellent collection of the antiquities of Jordan. Jabel Al Gha (Cited 180). Opening hours: 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. (Fridays and official holidays 10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.). Closed Tuesdays.  
Jordan National Gallery: Contains a collection of paintings, ceramics, and sculptures by contemporary Islamic artists from most of the Muslim countries and a collection of paintings by 19th Century orientalist artists. Museum, Jabel Luweibdeh. Opening hours: 10:00 a.m. - 1:30 p.m. and 3:30 p.m. - 6:00 p.m. Closed Tuesdays. Tel. 630128.  
Martyrs' Memorial (Military Museum): Collection of military armaments dating from the Arab Revolt of 1916.

**CHURCHES**

St. Joseph Church (Roman Catholic) Jabel Amman, Tel. 624500.  
St. George Church (Greek Orthodox) Jabel Amman, Tel. 624500.  
Church of the Annunciation (Roman Catholic) Jabel Luweibdeh, Tel. 627440.  
De la Salle Church (Roman Catholic) Jabel Amman, Tel. 661757.  
Church of the Annunciation (Greek Orthodox) Abadi, Tel. 623541.  
Anglican Church (Church of the Redeemer) Jabel Amman, Tel. 678906.  
Armenian Catholic Church Ashrafieh, Tel. 771331.  
Armenian Orthodox Church Ashrafieh, Tel. 775261.  
St. Ephraim Church (Syrian Orthodox) Ashrafieh, Tel. 771751.  
Armenian International Church (Inter-denominational) meets at Southern Baptist School in Shmeisani, Tel. 775334.  
Evangelical Lutheran Church, Jabel Amman 6th Circle, (Rev. N. Sam), Tel. 811297.  
Babylon Congregation (International, Interdenominational) meets in the Church of the Redeemer, Jabel Amman, Tel. 606974.

**PRAYER TIMES**

04:46 Fajr  
05:11 Sunrise  
12:34 Dhuhr  
16:12 Asr  
18:59 Maghreb  
19:25 Isha

## FOR THE TRAVELLER

**QUEEN ALIA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT**

This information is supplied by Alia information department at the Queen Alia International Airport tel. (08) 33200-3, where it should always be verified.

**ARRIVALS:**

09:15 Agaba (RJ)  
10:30 Kuwait (RJ)  
10:45 Cairo (RJ)  
10:55 Jordan (RJ)  
10:55 Dubai, Abu Dhabi (RJ)  
10:55 Doha, Bahrain (RJ)  
11:00 Dhahran (RJ)  
11:00 Damascus (RJ)  
11:15 Singapore, Kuala Lumpur (RJ)  
11:20 Moscow (RJ)  
11:35 Moscow, Abu Dhabi, Doha (GF)  
11:40 Damascus (RJ)  
12:30 Baghdad (RJ)  
12:35 Kuwait (RJ)  
12:40 Athens (RJ)  
12:40 New York, Vienna (RJ)  
12:40 Riyadh (RJ)  
12:45 Paris, Brussels (RJ)  
12:50 Kuwait (RJ)  
12:50 Copenhagen, Frankfurt (RJ)  
12:55 Beirut (RJ)  
13:00 Cairo (RJ)  
13:05 Istanbul (RJ)  
13:10 Zurich, Lamezia (RJ)  
13:15 Rome, Damascus (RJ)  
13:20 Rome (RJ)  
13:25 Tripoli (RJ)  
13:30 Frankfurt (RJ)  
13:35 Rome (RJ)  
13:40 Baghdad (RJ)  
13:45 Algiers (RJ)

**DEPARTURES:**

05:30 Algiers (RJ)  
07:00 Agaba (RJ)  
08:00 Beirut (RJ)  
08:05 Cairo (RJ)  
08:10 Tripoli (RJ)  
08:15 Rome (RJ)  
08:20 Athens (RJ)  
08:25 Rome (RJ)  
08:30 Geneva, London (RJ)  
08:35 Vienna, New York (RJ)  
08:40 Istanbul (RJ)  
08:45 Kuwait (RJ)  
08:50 Cairo (RJ)  
08:55 Moscow (RJ)  
09:00 Beirut, Moscow (RJ)  
09:05 Lisbon, Rio de Janeiro (RJ)  
09:10 Kuwait (RJ)

**MARITIME TRAFFIC**

Regular-line ships docking at Agaba port:

— Lok Vihar  
— Buzana  
— Rukha

**MONEY EXCHANGE**

Local selling rates in Jds

Belgian franc 30.9/ 61.7  
Dutch guilder 148.6/ 150  
French franc 51.1/ 51.6  
Italian lire 24.3/ 24.5  
Japanese yen (for 100) 220.8/ 223.2  
Swedish crown 49.8/ 50  
Swiss franc 207.6/ 209.9  
U.S. dollar 340.1/ 342.9  
W. German mark 167.9/ 169.3

**WEATHER**

Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology.

It will be relatively hot, with northwesterly light to moderate winds. In Agaba, winds will be northerly moderate and calm sea.

Amman 20/35  
Agaba 25/39  
Dahran 19/37  
Jordan Valley 22/40

Yesterday's high temperatures: Amman 36, Agaba 40. Humidity readings: Amman 19 per cent, Agaba 17 per cent.



## NEWS IN BRIEF

## Iraqi transport minister ends visit

AMMAN (Petra) — Iraqi Minister of Transport and Communications Abdul Jabbar Al Assadi left for Baghdad on Monday at the end of a five-day official visit to Jordan during which he held talks with his Jordanian counterpart Rajai Dajani on bilateral relations. Talks centred on developing transport between both countries, particularly land and air transport. Mr. Assadi also chaired the Iraqi side to the meetings of the Iraqi-Jordanian Land Transport Company general assembly and the company's board of directors. Mr. Assadi and the accompanying delegation were seen off at the airport by Mr. Dajani, senior ministry officials and the Iraqi charge d'affaires in Jordan.

## Decree endorses university law

AMMAN (Petra) — A Royal Decree has been issued endorsing a law for the University of Science and Technology. The law deals with the university's objectives and tasks and the authorities vested in the university's council and board of deans.

## Cabinet okays study on truck complex

AMMAN (Petra) — The Cabinet on Monday endorsed an agreement for a feasibility study and the preparation of preliminary designs for the Aqaba truck complex project and it allocated JD 15,000 to cover the costs of drawings and designs and a survey of the site.

## Senate committees to meet Wednesday

AMMAN (Petra) — Speaker of the Upper House of Parliament Ahmad Al Lawzi Monday called on the Senate's education committee to hold a meeting on Wednesday to discuss draft laws and temporary laws on the amendment to the education law. Mr. Lawzi also called on the legal committee to meet on the same day to discuss laws referred to it by the House.

## CBJ reports increase in bank deposits

AMMAN (Petra) — Deposits at commercial banks in Jordan amounted to JD 1,868,764,000 at the end of June 1986, Central Bank of Jordan (CBJ) sources said on Monday. The sources added that deposits were JD 1,638,994,000 during the same period of 1985. The CBJ's monthly statistical bulletin said that money supply was JD 602,122,000,000 during the first six months of this year, compared with JD 594,888,000 during the same period last year.

## JPMC chief tours fertiliser company

AQABA (Petra) — Dr. Hashem Al Dabbas, chairman of the board of directors of the Jordan Phosphate Mines Company (JPMC) Monday made inspection visits to the Jordan Fertiliser Industry Company in Aqaba and was briefed on the company's operations and maintenance carried out on installations. He also discussed with engineers and officials means of increasing production and improving the quality of the company's fertilisers.

## Minister outlines government's economic programmes

(Continued from page 1)

Following the criteria adopted by European countries. "Whatever they ban, we ban," the minister said. He added that the Royal Scientific Society (RSS) was acting as a liaison office to follow up on issues related to contamination including that caused by the Chernobyl nuclear disaster in the Soviet Union.

Responding to a question on the government's plan to buy the Queen Alia Hospital, estimated at nearly JD 16 million, the minister said that the hospital's board had sought to sell the hospital to the government at cost price and that the government was still studying the possibility.

Dr. Muasher said that the Armed Forces may be interested in buying the hospital since it had plans to establish a new hospital to replace its hospital at Marka. "There is compatibility between the board's intention to sell and the army's need," the minister said, adding that the government was not against selling the hospital to prospective buyers. He disclosed that a Kuwaiti financial group may be interested in buying the hospital.

In reply to a question on foreign investment in the Amman stock market reportedly by the International Finance Consortium (a financial body that backs international mutual funds and their investments in Third World stock markets), the minister said that the Amman stock market was approached with such investment proposals which were dropped "due to a set of rules related to the bureaucratic aspect of the transaction."

The minister said the government was in the process of drawing up an arbitration law and establishing an arbitration board which would handle cases of financial disputes that are now usually settled in lengthy and expensive court procedures.

He was replying to a question on gaps existing in the way the law is written, thus making unclear the requirements and obligations of disputing parties. Legal court action in such cases is known to be lengthy and very costly.

Dr. Muasher said the new law would reduce the number of cases going to courts and accelerate legal procedures and reduce exploitation of legal gaps. He explained that the ministry was facing problems with requirements of bank guarantees

which can be easily confiscated or cancelled. "There is a ministerial committee working on this, and there are steps to be taken," the minister said. "They should be almost ready."

Commenting on the recent merger of the Jordan Phosphate Mines Company (JPMC) and the Aqaba-based Jordan Fertiliser Industries Company (JFIC), under which the JPMC purchased the latter for JD 60 million, Dr. Muasher said the merger would benefit the JFIC since an integrated marketing strategy would help it find export outlets for fertilisers.

He added that the JFIC's accumulated losses and overdue loans will be honoured jointly by the treasury and the JPMC.

The Finance Ministry has allocated a special fund to cover outstanding repayments to creditors, amounting to JD 55 million, whereas the phosphates company will settle the remainder, the minister said. He went on to say that once the fertilisers company is generating profits then it will repay the Finance Ministry through annual instalments.

In reply to a question on whether the merger would, in the long run, enable the JFIC to stand on its feet without affecting the phosphates company, Dr. Muasher said the whole issue has resulted from low international prices and lack of export outlets for fertilisers. He added that the merger is bound to facilitate export procedures and will increase export possibilities.

The fertilisers company, he continued, is drawing up a study on developing the manufacturing process to process low grade Jordanian phosphates which are difficult to market abroad but this process would mean importing more sulphur and ammonia both of which are imported at high prices.

In response to a question on whether this week's government decision to purchase public shares in the Agricultural Marketing and Processing Company of Jordan (AMPCO) contradicted the government's drive for privatisation, Dr. Muasher said the government took this step to save the public unnecessary burdens. "AMPCO is not working on a purely commercial basis since its task is to help small farmers," said Dr. Muasher adding that the government frequently requests AMPCO to purchase crops at

conflict and the five permanent members of the U.N. Security Council. Mr. Vorontsov also indicated that Moscow was willing to seek common grounds with the U.S. towards convening such a conference, the sources added.



His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan Monday bids farewell to a Jordanian medical mission prior to their departure for Sudan where they will continue to provide health services to drought and famine victims (Petra photo).

## Researchers, experts thank King, Crown Prince

AMMAN (Petra) — Participants in a week-long seminar on solar and wind energy concluded their meetings on Monday and expressed their appreciation and gratitude to His Majesty King Hussein for the hospitality and warm welcome accorded to them during their stay in Jordan.

The researchers and delegates also thanked His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan for patronising the seminar and for his inaugural speech and participation in the seminar's sessions.

In their cable to King Hussein, the delegates expressed their happiness and satisfaction at the great achievements of Jordan in all fields, particularly in the field of solar energy research. They also voiced their interest in exchanging expertise in this field and wished Jordan every progress and prosperity under King Hussein's leadership.

At the conclusion of the seminar's meetings, participants called for drawing up long-term plans on solar and wind energy research and development at the

Royal Scientific Society (RSS). Such plans, they said, should provide for adapting existing studies and defining technological priorities and appropriate applications for Jordan. They also recommended that researchers from the Royal Scientific Society's Energy Research Centre be trained on methods of scientific research in industrialised countries and that researchers from Arab countries be trained in Jordan.

Another recommendation adopted during the seminar tackled the subject of testing and in this regard participants suggested that these tests be conducted using equipment developed in industrialised countries.

Attending the closing session of the seminar were President of the Water Authority of Jordan Mohammad Saleh Keilani, Under Secretary of the Ministry of Energy and Mineral Resources Ibrahim Badran and RSS President Fakhreddin Al Daghestani.

comparatively high prices as part of its continued efforts to assist Jordan. Following is the full text of the statement Dr. Muasher made at the outset of Monday's gathering:

Ladies and Gentlemen

IT is indeed my pleasure and honour to be here with you to address such a distinguished gathering on some of the issues which pertain to the Jordanian economy. I sincerely hope that my presentation will contribute to your already existing knowledge of Jordan and show that despite all the difficulties it encounters in its development drive, Jordan is still an attractive place for serious consideration whether in investment, trade or participation in development projects.

As you all know, Jordan has remarkable achievements to show. During the period 1973-1982, Jordan, though not an oil producer itself, attained a growth rate of over 10.5 per cent in its GDP, among the highest in the region and the world. Further, the gross domestic capital formation from the mid-1970s has been around 40 to 50 per cent of our GDP, compared with 15 and 20 per cent during the 50s and 60s. This clearly reflects the magnitude and, indeed, the success of Jordan's development efforts. It also shows that we in Jordan have made good use of the external support that was made readily available to a credible Jordanian economy.

Jordan's economic success during these years is generally attributed to factors such as generous foreign aid flows, substantial expatriate remittances and healthy regional markets. While one can not deny the significant contributions of these factors, the contributions of four other basic factors can not be ignored or underestimated. Those were, inter alia, the political stability of the country afforded by the guided leadership of His Majesty the King, the social mobility nurtured by education, the geographical location which Jordan enjoys, and the economic philosophy of free enterprise which Jordan adheres to.

However, the world-wide economic slow-down in the early 1980s, the outbreak of the Gulf war between Iran and Iraq and the progressive slide in oil prices have adversely affected the Jordanian economy.

This was reflected in a sharp fall in Arab aid to Jordan, a noticeable decrease in expatriate remittances and a reduction in export earnings; all contributing negatively to our foreign exchange reserves. Under these circumstances, it was natural for GDP growth rates to gradually fall

from their high levels during the 1970s to about four per cent in 1984, and for the development drive to lose its momentum for a while as the Jordanian economy appropriately adjusts, sometimes painfully, to changing conditions in the region and the world.

Nevertheless, the performance of the Jordanian economy during these difficult years has run completely counter to some pessimistic and doubtful by a very low inflation rate of three per cent in 1985, and a noticeable fall in the balance of trade deficit due to an increase in exports accompanied by decrease in imports represent a clear evidence of the ability of the Jordanian economy to cope with the difficulties of the times, as it has successfully done in the past and its determination to face these latest challenges. Not only that, but Jordan remains a relatively prosperous developing economy. Its performance compares favourably with that of other developing and even some developed economies, although it falls short of the aspirations and ambitions of the Jordanian people.

Furthermore, and to cope with the economic slow-down, the Jordanian government, guided by the royal directions of His Majesty the King, shouldered the responsibility of revitalising the economy and reactivating the private sector to play its role in the development process. After rearranging priorities and examining alternative courses of action, the present government has adopted a set of economic policies directed towards reactivating the economy and removing the obstacles facing various sectors and helping them to prosper anew.

It has placed top priority on achieving the following objectives:

- 1 — To maintain and build up our reserves of foreign exchange.
- 2 — To create as many job opportunities as possible.
- 3 — To encourage and protect domestic production from severe foreign competition and dumping.
- 4 — To build Jordan as a centre of excellence in the region in the fields of services, maintenance and finance.

Being the minister of industry and trade, I can responsibly speak about the set of policies being adopted for solving many of the problems facing the industrial and trade sectors with the aim of reducing the deficit in the balance of trade and encouraging domestic production of reasonably priced, quality goods. The policies include:

- 1) To prepare studies on priority investment opportunities to be

## Government revises bridge procedures

AMMAN (Petra) — The government is revising travel regulations for citizens crossing the bridges on the River Jordan in implementation of Royal directives to provide facilities to travellers and organising travel operations, according to an announcement issued on Monday. The announcement was made following a meeting held under the chairmanship of Minister of Interior Hassan Al Kayed and attended by the ministers of occupied territories affairs, finance and agriculture, as well as the director of public security and other concerned senior officials.

At the meeting, instructions given to bridge posts and the measures and regulations concerning crossings were all revised with the intention of offering further facilities, organising travel into both banks and guaranteeing further support for the Arab population in their steadfastness against Israel's plans to evict them from their homeland, the announcement said.

It said the meeting decided to authorise the chief officer in charge of crossings to deal with urgent and humanitarian cases according to their own merit.

## Prince Hassan appeals for Arab assistance to alleviate human suffering in Sudan

Crown Prince stresses urgent need for more aid as Jordan sends planeload of supplies to drought victims

AMMAN (Petra) — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan has appealed to Arab countries to extend all possible assistance to the Sudanese people to help them overcome the consequences of drought and famine, pointing out that international relief organisations have been discouraged from extending help to the stricken areas of Sudan because of the current political and military developments in the country.

Speaking in an interview with the Jordan News Agency, Petra, after seeing off another Jordanian medical mission which has been dispatched to Sudan to offer additional help to the drought victims, Prince Hassan said that Jordan was helping the Sudanese people "because these brothers are facing suffering and a serious challenge to their existence."

Jordan's assistance does not only consist of food and medical relief supplies but also comprises providing the basic infrastructure required to help Sudan avoid similar disasters, Prince Hassan pointed out. Jordan, he continued, is helping to carry out irrigation projects and is also laying water networks in the city of Kas. "We are now awaiting Sudanese government approval to drill water wells in Kas, prior to laying

water pipe networks to help contribute towards solving Sudan's chronic problems," Prince Hassan said.

In the forthcoming Arab ministers of agriculture meeting to be held in Amman this month to discuss Arab food security, Jordan will bring up the question of desertification and famine in Sudan and other parts of the Arab World, Prince Hassan announced. He expressed hope that the Arabs would be able to show at least the minimum level of solidarity with their brothers who are suffering.

The Arabs have to realise that the Sudanese people are now being exposed to a dangerous campaign directed against their Arab identity and Muslim religion and Arab countries have to rally behind the Sudanese people and help them through all possible

means to alleviate the sufferings of victims of drought and famine, Prince Hassan continued.

Referring to the medical mission operating in Sudan, Prince Hassan said that a specialised committee will make a general appraisal of the mission's work before articles on their activities are published in Arab and international magazines and newspapers as part of Jordan's drive to rally support for the Sudanese victims.

## Medical mission

The medical mission which left on Monday is the seventh mission to be sent to Sudan and it groups seven physicians and specialists, seven nurses and other technicians. The plane carrying the team to Sudan is also transporting several tonnes of medicines, medical equipment and pesticides as a gift from the Jordanian people. The medical mission will take charge of work at the Jordanian hospital in Kas.

Health Minister Zaid Hamzeh, Under Secretary of the Ministry of Awaqaf and Islamic Affairs Abdul Salam Al Abbadi and other officials were at the airport to bid farewell to the mission.

## IAISA conference on administration opens today

AMMAN (J.T.) — The International Association of Institutes and Schools of Administration (IAISA) today opens a three-day meeting at the University of Jordan. Prime Minister Zaid Rifai will address the opening session and is expected to outline Jordan's experience in administrative development.

On the eve of the meeting, the first of its kind in the Arab World, Mr. Abdullah Ulayyan, director of the Institute of Public Administration, IPA, said that the participants will discuss working papers dealing with the development of administration. One of the papers is to be

presented by Jordan and covers recent improvements and reforms in the country's public administration system, Mr. Ulayyan said. He added that the participants will be divided into groups, each discussing a collection of papers dealing with public administration and its relations with economic development.

The IPA paper will cover training staff employed in public administration, modern technology involved in this process, the improvement of services to the public, financial administration and the management of public projects in Jordan, Mr. Ulayyan said.

## Pan-Arab organisations to discuss food security

AMMAN (Petra) — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan will Saturday patronise a three-day seminar on agricultural coordination and integration in the Arab World. The seminar has been organised by the Council of Arab Economic Unity (CAEU) general secretariat in cooperation with the Arab Fund for Economic and Social Development, the Arab Organisation for Agricultural Development and the Arab Agricultural Engineers Union.

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هاتف ٤٣٥٩٣٤٣٤ (١)

## Murphy arrives here today

(Continued from page 1)

that the Soviet Union was seeking "effective mechanisms" towards convening an international conference on the Middle East with the participation of all parties involved in the Arab-Israeli

conflict and the five permanent members of the U.N. Security Council. Mr. Vorontsov also indicated that Moscow was willing to seek common grounds with the U.S. towards convening such a conference, the sources added.

(Continued on page 5)







# Turkey steps up efforts to reclaim dispersed treasures

By Seva Ulman

Reuter

ANKARA — Turkey has threatened action, including curbs on excavations, if foreign museums and collectors fail to return archaeological treasures, many of which the government says were smuggled out after illegal digs.

The Tourism and Culture Ministry said it has been writing to the New York Metropolitan Museum since 1970 asking for the return of treasures from the sixth century B.C. Kingdom of Lydia.

The case "shows the links of a chain which starts in Turkey with an illegal excavation and ends up in a Western museum, which sometimes even finances the whole thing," Tourism Minister Mukerrem Tascioglu told Reuters.

The chain often starts in a village with a peasant making a find. Some declare them, others seek buyers for goods which are smuggled abroad, bound for foreign collectors or museums.

"We can and will take counter-measures if our requests are not met," Tascioglu said. One move would be to bar excavations by archaeologists whose countries do not help secure the return of antiquities, he added.

Some were exported with permission in Ottoman times. The vast altar of Zeus, from the Hellenistic site of Pergamum, took German archaeologists 10 years to remove from 1878. It now sits in East Berlin.

East Germany is not being asked to return the altar, but one official said: "In principle, whenever we hear of anything in a museum that is of Turkish origin we ask for it back, citing UNESCO (United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation) agreements."

In 1970, in an attempt to halt a thriving black market in art treasures, UNESCO agreed a convention providing that any work of art must have a certificate

before it can be exported. On the request of the country of origin, an illegally exported object could be seized and returned.

Tascioglu said the Turkish government hoped a new law stating that Turks possessing antiquities must register them would reduce the flow of goods abroad.

In many of the hundreds of sites of the Hittite, Phrygian, Lydian, Greek, Roman and Byzantine civilisations, little archaeological work has been done, so the sites are ripe for treasure hunting.

In the 1960s, the Culture Ministry was told of illegal digs near the western town of Usak. Tombs of the Lydian kingdom, which prospered in the seventh and sixth centuries B.C., were said to have been looted.

Ministry Under-Secretary Olu Arık told Reuters the antiquities involved are known as the treasures of King Croesus, the fabulously rich last king of Lydia.

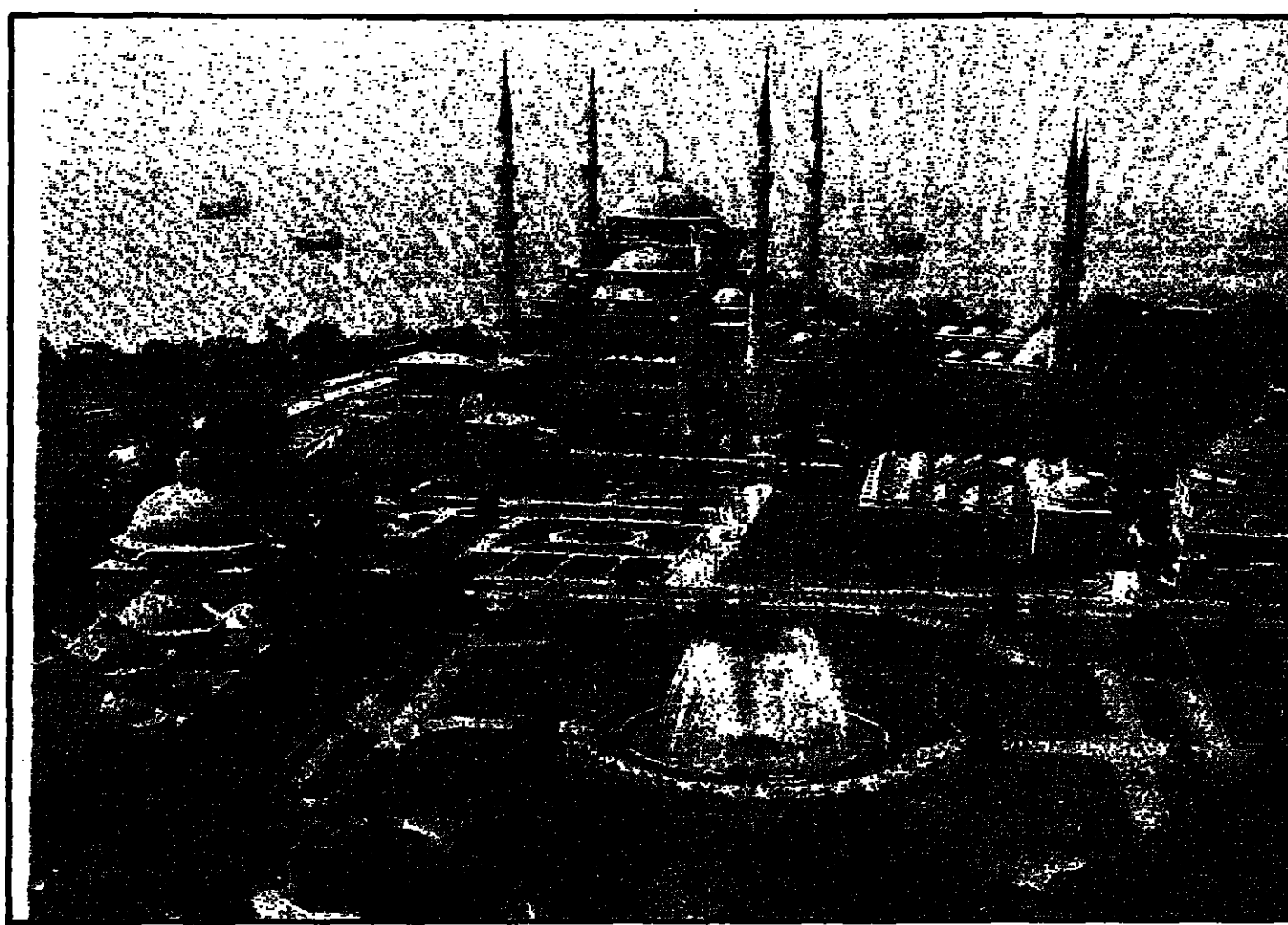
Historians say the Lydian kingdom was probably the first to issue coins, in 625 B.C., and to melt and work gold ore. The pieces from the site include many finely decorated gold and silver ornaments and utensils still in good condition.

Some were recovered. Villagers sold others to a dealer in nearby Izmir, who passed them to a collector in New York, who sold them to the Metropolitan Museum in New York in 1966, Arık said.

The Turkish daily Milliyet, which investigated the case earlier this year, said the museum paid \$1.7 million for the works.

"The museum, well aware there was not the slightest doubt over the origins, kept the antiquities for years... and ignored for years the request of the Turkish ministry," Arık added.

But Metropolitan Museum spokesman John Ross told Reuters: "Though we have read in the press that we have been asked for a number of years for information about this material, we never actually received the



Turkey, a cradle of ancient civilisations, houses an abundance of treasures among which is the Agasofya Mosque in Istanbul (File photo)

request... so we don't feel as though we've withheld information."

Ross said that since 1970, the museum had abided by the UNESCO accords of 1970. However, in 1966, "we abided by what were at the time the standards of the international art world and we acquired the material I think he's referring to from a reputable antiquities dealer with whom all reputable museums in the United States and some in Europe acquire antiquities," he added.

Turkey sought UNESCO help in this and other cases, one of which concerned the Dumbarton Oaks Institute in Washington. The institute was asked to return a silver collection smuggled out of Turkey after illegal digs in the 1960s at Kumluca, on the south coast. There has been no reply to requests since 1970, Arık said.

Susan Boyd, curator of the Dumbarton Oaks Byzantine collection, denied that her museum had failed to respond.

"This has been under active discussion for a number of years and we have made a great number

of proposals to Turkish authorities." She declined to elaborate.

Boyd said as far as she knew there had been no formal request for the return of the silver from Turkey either through UNESCO or the U.S. State Department.

On the other hand, the Paul Getty Museum in California is commended for returning parts of a frieze depicting the labours of Heracles.

After the frieze was unearthed at Perge, near Antalya on the south coast, it was broken up and parts were sold in West Germany

and North America. Some are now on show in Antalya Museum.

Turkey now has strict rules for the issue of permits to archaeologists, including checks on whether planned work has backing from an official institute.

Some 75 excavations take place are conducted by Turkish archaeologists.

A law passed two years ago allows Turkish antiquities to be sent to foreign museums for display. "This and selective loaning... to museums abroad should also help check demand for smuggled goods," Tascioglu said.

## Huddled aloft, sufferers confront fear of flying

By Simon Haydon

Reuter

OSLO — The small group huddled together in the commercial airliner as it taxied for take-off on a routine internal flight, united by only one thing — fear of flying.

For other passengers on the flight from the Norwegian capital to the small western port of Haugesund, flight SK335 was a normal 40-minute hop across Norway. For the four Norwegian and one American "aerophobics," the journey was the culmination of a course aimed at conquering their terror of travelling by plane.

Maurice Yaffe, a psychiatrist at Guy's Hospital in London, accompanied the group, holding sweaty hands and calmly reassuring them that slight turbulence did not mean the plane would crash.

"Ten per cent of people do not fly because they are afraid of flying, and in these days of fierce competition airlines are looking to convince this group that their fears can be overcome," Yaffe told Reuters aboard the DC-9 airliner.

Captain Bjørn Hattestad on the Scandinavian Airlines System (SAS) jet was more informative than the average flight captain, talking his select group through every manoeuvre and urging them to "go with the flow" whenever he changed direction.

Hattestad, who studies psychology in his spare time, said the group, who had replied to advertisements placed in local newspapers, had undergone a two-day course. "But this is their final test," he added, pointing at the sky beneath the jet.

For most aerophobics, the fear of confined spaces, claustrophobia, is the main reason for avoiding planes.

Melinda, the American in the group, who did not want to be further identified, said the course involved relaxation techniques and factual information about what a plane does while it is in the air.

All five sufferers came through the Oslo-Haugesund-Oslo return flight. "It was excellent. My problems did not come too much to the surface during the flight," she said after the first leg of the trip.

Yaffe said three of the five sufferers were straightforward claustrophobics who suffered in other closed environments as well and he was delighted that he had been able to get all five on to the plane in the first place.

"No one backed out so I think we've got somewhere," he said

after take-off.

Hattestad admitted after the journey that he deliberately held the plane at the start of the runway for several minutes longer than usual. "It was good for them to sit there and realise we were about to go."

"Most frightening for many people is the take-off and immediately after the take-off, when there are lots of strange noises and the plane is moving at odd angles," he said.

As the plane banked steeply out of Oslo's Fornebu airport, the captain through loudspeakers briefed passengers on every move, just before he performed the manoeuvre.

"Information flow is vital for these people. They need to know that what is happening is normal," Hattestad said.

Melinda agreed, saying she felt every move the jet made, and worried about each one. She said Hattestad seemed to know what the most frightening parts of the journey were.

He said many air passengers did not realise plane engines were slowed down when cruising altitude was reached, or that lowering the undercarriage always makes a plane appear to be rolling forward out of control.

Air turbulence, another natural phenomenon likely to unnervise even seasoned travellers, was slight on the Norwegian flight.

"I don't think I could have taken it if it was too bumpy," one of the Norwegian members of the group said.

Yaffe said airlines around the world were beginning to realise they could profit by attempting to cure potential passengers' fear of flying.

He said British Airlines had introduced a "happy hour", where anyone who wanted to could fly for one hour, but the Norwegian course was his first experience of an organised and academic attempt to conquer aerophobia.

Yaffe runs a course at Guy's Hospital for sufferers, involving a flight simulator and theoretical discussion of aerophobia. Flying in the narrow enclosed confines of a modern airliner presents the same problems to a claustrophobic as a lift or a crowded bus, he said.

The confinement problem was compounded by fear that the plane would crash, Hattestad said, adding: "These people are so aware of what is going on they are a bundle of nerves."

The journey, short for most of the passengers, but excruciatingly long for the small group venturing into the skies for the first time, ended without incident.

## Muasher: Government is determined to overcome economic difficulties

(Continued from page 3)

made available to private investors including medium-size, small and family projects.

2) To establish industrial cities in various locations and improve their services.

3) To promote import-substitution, export-oriented small manufacturing projects and provide incentives to encourage exports of local production in the form of a called-up tax exemptions scheme.

4) Establish an organisation to provide insurance for exports against non-commercial risks.

5) Encourage industrial projects which complement both other industries and other sectors, particularly agriculture and construction.

6) Direct vocational training to the needs of local industries.

7) Organise training programmes in industrial management and marketing in cooperation with educational and specialised institutions.

8) Develop and up-date an industrial data base to assist industrial development.

9) Encourage small industrial firms to join appropriate associations under the umbrella of the Amman Chamber of Industry.

10) Adopt a progressive system of customs duties on imported products similar to those produced locally, on the basis of the local product's proportionate domestic value.

11) Provide a healthy environment for industrial activities aimed at encouraging domestic production of quality goods at reasonable costs.

In addition, the Ministry of Industry and Trade, in cooperation with the Amman Chamber of Industry, is currently drawing up its first "Law of Industry" which is designed to organise industrial activities and regulate government support and protection of industry.

The ministry is also attempting to simplify the procedure to speed up the process of licensing new projects and eliminate delay and duplication wherever possible.

The Ministry of Industry and Trade continues to issue new industrial standards (more than 200 during the period

1981-1985). It also keeps a close watch on the quality of local industrial products, particularly in the protected sectors.

Industrial projects benefit from various incentives provided under the Law of Encouragement of Investment No. 6/1984. These take the form of customs duties exemptions on imported equipment and spare parts and income tax exemptions depending on the size, type and location of the project.

During the 1980-1985 period, 155 projects benefited from these laws, 70 of which were economic and preferred projects.

Tax and customs laws have been modified recently to give greater protection, incentives and tax reductions in the industrial sector. Recently a new direction issued by the Council of Ministers treats Arab capital invested in many sectors exactly as Jordanian.

In the area of fiscal policy, the government has recently approved a set of measures aimed at reactivating the economy through carefully allocated additional spending. These measures complement other measures previously taken to reduce the tax burden on citizens to practical limits. The new measures are embedded in a government investment programme amounting to JD 125 million to be financed by domestic medium-term loans and expended over the coming two years.

The programme allocates JD 25 million to paying off the amounts due to citizens on the central government as a result of confiscating their lands of public use (about JD 10.4 million), to compensate small shareholders of the Jordan Fertilizers Industries for their losses (JD 8.4 million), and to buy all the shares owned by the Post Office Savings Fund at their book value (about JD 6.2 million). It is hoped that these additional funds will be channelled by those receiving them towards direct investment activities.

The remaining JD 100 million will be spent on building schools, health centres and government offices provided that they are built functional and not costly in their design, use local materials, properly distributed geographically, and are

implemented by as many local contractors as possible. In addition, the programme establishes a special fund for individual loans of about JD 7,000 each to individuals in the low and intermediate income groups who are not house owners.

A number of "group housing" projects for citizens of the same income categories are also recommended to be implemented outside Amman Municipality. Finally, about JD 8 million will be made available to some specialised lending institutions to enable them to expand their activities.

The government expects a positive response to this initiative from the private sector and to maximise the multiplier effects, economically and socially, of such an expansionary fiscal policy.

As for monetary policy, the Council of Ministers has also approved a set of measures aimed at attracting capital from abroad and building Jordan as a distinguished financial centre in the region. These measures involve restructuring of the financial system in Jordan to enable its various units to function properly and efficiently by encouraging mergers between these units and prohibit speculations.

The monetary policy measures include some incentives to Jordanians, Arabs and foreigners to increase their foreign currency deposits with Jordanian banks. They also include a reconsideration of the interest rates structure and levels on deposits and loans so as to reduce the cost of borrowing and to encourage savers to engage in direct investment activities. On the establishment of a Jordanian reinsurance company, and the preference given through incentives for using the capabilities of the Jordan National Marine Company represent house-keeping measures to save on foreign exchange outflows.

With respect to the long-run investment policies, they are, as usual, contained in national development plans. The Council of Ministers has recently approved Jordan's new five-year development plan, covering the period 1986-1990.

The objectives of this plan and the macro-economic policies

devised for achieving them are a reflection of current economic conditions and of some key assumptions concerning projected financial constraints for the coming plan period.

They also reflect the experience gained in socio-economic development during the three previous development plans.

The forthcoming 1986-1990 development plan retains the basic objectives of the previous ones, namely:

- 1) Achieving a modest, but sustainable four per cent rate of growth in GDP annually.
- 2) Reducing the reliance on external grants and the size of the trade deficit.
- 3) Balancing the government budget by the end of the plan period.
- 4) Expanding basic social services to all regions with the aim of attaining a more balanced distribution of the fruits of development among sectors and regions of Jordan.
- 5) Reducing the consumption proportion of GDP to increase the level of domestic savings.
- 6) Creating sufficient job opportunities to absorb more of the Jordanians entering the labour market.

Annual real growth in GDP, which reached the unprecedented level of 12 per cent during the period 1975-1980, is expected to level off at around four per cent during the next five years as a result of increasing pressures and financial constraints caused by a continued drop in financial aid and budget support, and workers' remittances from the Gulf. Both flows are greatly affected by the forecasted continuation of the economic slowdown in oil-producing countries sustained by a depressed oil market.

Nevertheless, the projected modest, but sustainable four per cent economic growth will assist in alleviating economic problems, the most serious of which is looming unemployment.

To arrive at a four per cent real growth in Gross Domestic Product will, however, require the implementation of an ambitious investment programme totalling around JD 3.1 billion.

The emphasis therefore will be on policies fostering an economic and business climate conducive to

private sector initiative, and it is expected that private sector investment will reach around JD 1.5 billion, concentrated mainly in the sectors of agriculture, industry, housing and construction.

The public sector, including both central and local government, and autonomous public institutions is expected to account for around 57 per cent of total investment. Most public investment outlays will be in basic infrastructural projects, including water and irrigation systems, and communication and transport projects and in social services. In keeping with the drive to develop the agricultural potential of the country, agricultural projects will receive a proportionate share of the public investment programme.

A major objective of the coming plan is to reduce the growth rate of the current trade deficit. Trade policies will therefore be directed towards the promotion of exports through income tax exemptions on export proceeds and through strengthening the government export promotion machinery, enabling it to provide information, incentives and advice on product modification and diversification for export markets. The standards and specifications machinery, moreover, will be provided with new technology and additional personnel for securing and monitoring standards for domestic output.

The economic policy that Jordan adopted ever since its establishment has been based on the free enterprise system and personal initiative. Within this framework the government played, and continues to play, a leading role through its participation with the private sector to implement large industrial projects and the creation of the right investment climate and incentives to attract the private sector's investments, local and foreign, in these projects.

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## Connors loses, Becker and Lloyd advance to 4th round of U.S. Open

NEW YORK (R) — Boris Becker and Chris Evert Lloyd advanced to the fourth round of the U.S. Open Sunday, but unseeded American Todd Witsken knocked out five-time winner Jimmy Connors in straight sets.

Connors put up a valiant fight with the centre-court crowd cheering him on, but the 22-year-old Witsken withstood the pressure to beat his 33-year-old opponent 6-2, 6-4, 7-5 to notch the biggest victory of his career.

"It's just the greatest feeling in the world," said Witsken after the two-hour and ten-minute victory. All the women seeds advanced in their pursuit of the \$210,000 first prize, while 13th seed Anders Jarryd of Sweden was the only other men's seed to lose.

Connors' defeat leaves Brad Gilbert, seeded 15th, the only seeded American remaining.

"I was flat. It was just one of those days," Connors said, after failing to reach the semifinals for the first time since 1973. Witsken raced out to a 5-0 lead on his way to winning the first set and earned a decisive second-set break in the ninth game to go two sets up.

Connors, clearly the crowd favourite, battled back in the third

set to even the score at 3-3 by breaking Witsken's serve.

Witsken broke through again in the 11th game and took a 40-0 lead in the 12th game. But Connors saved three straight match points to reach deuce and staved off two more match points before putting a backhand shot beyond the baseline.

"I got a little tight in the third set," Witsken said. "Centre court at the U.S. Open is different from anything I've experienced. The noise, planes all got to me. I had trouble keeping my composure."

If anything, Becker was a little too composed in the early going of his match with Spain's Sergio Casal. But Becker prevailed 7-5, 6-4, 6-2 in their opening match in the \$3.5 million tournament.

The 23-year-old Casal, broke a somewhat casually-playing Becker at love in the sixth game of the first set.

"I woke up when he broke me and I started hitting hard and playing good. And I won it 7-5."

And from then on I played solid," Becker said.

Becker broke Casal back and "then I started hitting my stride," Becker said. The two-time Wimbledon champion made it through a setpoint in the 10th game and broke the Spanish Davis Cup player in the 11th game to take the advantage and went on to win the set.

Becker had the only service break in the second set and won the final set in 33 minutes.

Jarryd, who made it to the quarterfinals last year, had the dubious distinction of being eliminated 6-3, 5-7, 6-1, 6-3 by the world's 211th-ranked player — American Gary Donnelly.

Donnelly, the only qualifier left in the tournament, used a steady ground game to wear down the 25-year-old Jarryd, who had trouble with his knee, which actually buckled under him in the second set.

Donnelly, who has made it as far as any qualifier in the history of the U.S. Open, broke Jarryd six times while the Swede managed only two service breaks.

The women seeds to advance were led by defending champion Hana Mandlikova, seeded fourth, who knocked out South African

Elna Reinach 6-4, 6-2.

Lloyd, a six-time winner here, ended this year's open for compatriot Mary Joe Fernandez 6-4, 6-2.

"Sometimes when nerves enter into a match a little bit, I have a tendency to get tentative. Rather than overhit, I underhit. But I thought I played O.K.," Lloyd said after her victory.

West German Claudia Kohde-Kilsch, seeded sixth, defeated Briton Jo Durie 6-2, 6-3.

Helena Sukova, seeded seventh, walked by American Lisa Bonder 6-2, 6-0 to gain the right to face American Zina Garrison, the 12th seed, who advanced with a 6-3, 6-2 win against compatriot Melissa Gurney.

Ninth-seeded Manuela Maleeva of Bulgaria eliminated American Camille Benjamin 7-6 (7-3) 6-3, and Sweden's Catarina Lindqvist defeated Time Schauer-Larsen of Denmark 3-6, 6-2, 6-0.

In men's play, Miloslav Mecir and Milan Srejber of Czechoslovakia also advanced. The 16th-seeded Mecir beat South African Eddie Edwards 6-0, 6-3, 6-3 and Srejber knocked out Jaime Yzaga of Peru 3-6, 6-1, 6-4, 6-2.

## Estrapade triumphs in Arlington Million

CHICAGO (R) — Estrapade Sunday won the sixth running of the Arlington Million by five lengths when she galloped clear of the 14-horse field in the stretch of the mile and a quarter (2.01 kilometres) turf classic before a crowd of 30,467 at Arlington Park.

Divulge, a U.S. entry and a long shot at 34-1, held on gamely to edge Britain's Pennine Walk by a head for second place. Uptown Swell, of the U.S., finished fourth another half length back.

Estrapade, a U.S. trained horse ridden by Fernando Toro, a native of Chile, was the first female ever to win the Arlington Million.

Britain's Teleprompter, the 1985 Arlington Million winner, finished well out of the money in seventh place.

Palace Music of the U.S. was fifth, Flying Pigeon, a U.S. entry, finished sixth. Another U.S. horse, Al Mamoon was eighth, Britain's Over the Ocean was ninth, Ireland's Theatrical Tenth, Creme Fraiche of the U.S. finished 11th, American entry Alphabatic, 12th, Britain's Maysoon 13th, and Zoffany, another U.S. horse was last.

Estrapade, a sixth-year-old mare, was part of a four-horse entry which included Al Mamoon, Palace Music, and Theatrical. That entry, as the favourite in the race, paid \$6 and 20 cents to win, \$3 and 80 cents to place and \$2 and 60 cents to show.

Divulge returned \$22 to place and \$9 and 60 cents to show and Pennine Walk paid \$6 and 60 cents.

The victory represented the second Million score for 73 year-old trainer Charles Whittingham who trained Peraltu to win the 1984 Million in track record time of 1:58.45.

"With her style of running I thought Estrapade had a good chance of winning this," Whittingham said.

Estrapade was timed in 2:00.45, second fastest time in Arlington Million history. Estrapade's owner Allen Paulson was not surprised by her victory.

"Did you have a look at those workouts of hers? They were great. She's been running super ever since she got here. I bet \$2,000 on her to win. That shows you how much I believed in her," Paulson said.

Divulge jumped right into the lead at the start of the race and held it until the far turn. Estrapade then moved sharply between horses from fourth place and took command of the race from that point on.

Estrapade, who began her racing career in France, elevated her lifetime earnings to \$1,468,556 with Sunday's \$600,000 purse.

## Briton wins gold medal in cycling

COLORADO SPRINGS (R) — Briton Tony Doyle ended five years of world cycling championship frustration with a powerful kick to beat archrival Hans-Henrik Oersted of Denmark for the gold medal in the professional individual pursuit.

Czechoslovakia edged ahead of East Germany by one-hundredth of a second to win the 4,000 metre team pursuit in the only other final Sunday, the last day of track competition.

Eastern Europeans have won all five amateur gold medals with three events remaining.

Doyle, who has finished second to Oersted in the 5,000 metres event for the past two years, trailed by nearly two seconds with one kilometre remaining.

"In the last kilometre I really kicked and gave it all I had," the 28-year-old from Woking, Surrey, said after winning by a commanding 1.95 seconds.

"I knew I was behind but I had a sense he was slowing down. His history is to finish fast but he started fast so I knew I had him with one and a half lap to go."

Doyle, who won the 1980 championship but has been riding in Oersted's shadow ever since, said he was bitten in the right calf by a dog after a training session last Wednesday but the deep puncture wounds did not affect him in the final.

Oersted, 31, won his third silver medal. He has already won two golds and two bronzes since turning professional in 1980.

Jesper Wotte of Denmark beat Gregor Braun of West Germany in the bronze medal race in the pursuit, in which two riders start on opposite sides of the banked oval track and try to catch one another or post the fastest time.

The Czechoslovak team and the crowd of some 8,000 cheered wildly when the results of a photo finish in the four-man team pursuit were announced.

The East Germans were the apparent winners according to the unofficial timer at the Olympic training centre velodrome but an official review of videotapes of the finish showed the Czechoslovaks had won by the slimmest of margins.

Koichi Nakano of Japan, on target for an unprecedented 10th consecutive gold medal in the professional match sprints, was hardly tested as he advanced to the semifinals along with countryman Nobuyuki Tawara, Claudio Göttsch of Italy and Dieter Gieschen of West Germany.

In the women's 3,000 metres individual event, reigning champion Rebecca Twigg

Whitehead of the United States and Jeannie Longo of Italy drew towards their third consecutive battle for the gold medal as they easily advanced to the semifinals.

The 23-year-old Whitehead is seeking her third successive title and an unprecedented fourth world championship in the event.

Also advancing were Barbara Ganz of Switzerland and Linda Van De Berg of The Netherlands, who recovered from an accident in which her bike broke in two at the steering column to beat American Elizabeth Davis in a restarted heat.

In the morning session, East German Lutz Haneisen broke facial bones and suffered bruises and concussion in a crash during the first qualifying heat for the amateur points race.

He was reported to be in a fair condition in hospital.

Haneisen was thrown into the air and onto his face after riding into downed cyclist Christian Naess of Norway. Serafin Rieta of Spain plunged into both of them but, like Naess, escaped with minor cuts and bruises.

The crash occurred as a tightly packed field of 28 riders made the first turn of the 21st lap of a 90-lap contest. The race continued as Haneisen was carried off the track on a stretcher.

Rebecca Twigg

## Seoul urges North Korea to reverse decision on boycotting Asian Games

SEOUL (Agencies) — South Korea Monday urged its northern neighbour to reverse a decision to boycott this month's Asian Games and said it was holding the door open for a change of heart.

North Korea's official Rodong Shinmun newspaper Monday accused Seoul of trying to use the games to perpetuate the division of Korea, according to the North Korean central news agency.

"We should not be involved in things helpful to national division, and therefore, he will not participate in the 10th Asian Games scheduled in Seoul," the agency quoted the paper as saying.

A spokesman for the games organising committee said it had not yet received formal notification of the boycott.

"But if the news reports are true, we regret the North Korean decision very much," the spokesman told Reuters.

"We urge the northmen to reconsider and we would remind them that they still can and should take part in this festival of peace for greater national reconciliation. We will keep our doors open," he said.

The Communist north, which fought the south in the 1950-53 Korean war, opposed the choice of Seoul to host the Asian Games and also the 1988 summer Olympics.

Of the 36 member countries of the Olympic Council of Asia, 30, including China and Japan, have said they will compete in the Asian

Games. Afghanistan, Laos, Mongolia, Vietnam and South Yemen have not announced a decision but are not expected to come, according to the organisers.

Monday is the official deadline for entry applications, but the organisers said they would accept any of the socialist countries not so far enrolled if they should seek to attend even at a later stage.

North Korea has threatened a Communist-led boycott of the Seoul Olympics if its demand for an equal share of the games is not met.

Earlier this summer the two Koreas held a third round of talks in Lausanne, Switzerland, with the International Olympic Committee (IOC) mediating, in an attempt to lift the boycott threat.

But they failed to reach agreement on a joint IOC-South Korea proposal to allow the north to stage several events but falling short of offering an equal share. Sports officials here, and abroad say the Koreans may hold further talks.

Meanwhile, South Korea aims to win 65 out of 269 gold medals at stake and hopes that will put it in second place in the 10th Asian Games that begin here Sept. 20, the Korea Amateur Sports Association (KASA) said Monday.

China, which led the overall standings in the last games in 1980 in New Delhi with 61 gold medals, is going for at least 75 gold medals in Seoul, and Japan, the second

leading medal winner in New Delhi, hopes for 72 golds, recent press reports have said.

South Korea's medal hopes include winning eight out of 12 gold medals in archery, seven of 12 golds in boxing, five of nine golds in cycling, three of eight golds in judo, all eight athletes in taekwondo, and four of six golds in tennis, KASA said.

KASA officials said South Korea also aims for 65 silver and 79 bronze medals in the 25 sports, in which about 4,100 athletes from about 30 countries are expected to compete. South Korea plans to field 494 athletes in the competition.

## Hulbert wins Memphis Golf Classic

MEMPHIS, Tennessee (R) — Mike Hulbert finished the final hole to win Memphis Golf Classic by one stroke over his boyhood friend, Joey Sindelar.

Hulbert finished the \$605,912 tournament, which was boosted from \$500,000, with a three-under-par 69 and a total of eight-under 280.

This was Hulbert's first victory in two years on the PGA tour and it was worth \$109,064, boosting his earnings for the year to \$250,131.

## E. Europe, Britain dominate athletic games

STUTTGART, West Germany (AP) — East Germany and the Soviet Union collected seven of the 10 gold medals at stake on the final day of the European track and field championships Sunday, while Britain, Western Europe's most successful team, also ended the 6-day event on a high note by winning the men's 1,500 and 5,000 metre races and the 4x400-metre men's relay.

In the 1,500 metres, the blue ribbon event of every major track championships, Steve Cram beat archrival Sebastian Coe and retained his title in a 1-2 for Britain. Han Kulker of The Netherlands was third.

Cram's winning time was a slow 3:41.09, but his victory was sweet revenge after he had placed only third place in the 800 metre final on Thursday, when Coe won his first major outdoor title over the distance and another Briton, Tom McKean, came third.

After preventing Coe becoming the first person to win an 800-1,500 double at these championships, Cram told reporters: "I don't think I've ever been so depressed, in running terms, as when I lost the 800. I was very, very determined to win today. A gold each for Seb and me isn't bad."

Cram hit the front with 300 metres to go and, unlike on Thursday, had the strength and fitness to go on and win.

Steve Ovett, the former 800-metre Olympic champion who set a string of world records at middle distance events in the early 1980s, failed in his bid for a 5,000-metre title.

Ovett, who almost did not compete in Stuttgart because of a bad cold, never got going and dropped out of the race with five laps to go. "I felt dead. It was far too quick for me," Ovett said.

But countryman Jack Buckner made sure Britain struck gold with a superb performance to win in 13 minutes, 10.15 seconds, the second fastest time in the world this year.

Italy's Stefano Mei, the 5,000-metre winner, just missed the double by placing second while another Briton, Tim Hutchings, took the bronze.

Britain's third gold medal came in a thrilling 4x400-metre men's relay.

The team, already without dependable anchor man Phil Brown, who was injured, appeared to have suffered a further setback when substitute runner Brian Whittle lost his left shoe at the changeover.

But Whittle, who was running the third leg, hung on bravely and lost only one place, slipping from second to third, when he handed over the baton to Roger Black.

Black, the 400-metre gold medalist, was powerful enough to overtake the Soviets and West

Germans and was two metres up when he crossed the line.

As an ecstatic British team celebrated victory, Whittle said: "What else could I do? I could not stop and put the shoe back on again."

Britain's eight gold medals equalled its previous best title showing in 1950.

The women's 4x400-metre relay went to East Germany, which also clinched the women's 4x100 in a best time for the year of 41.84 seconds.

The other relay, the men's 4x100, went to the Soviet Union, with East Germany second and Britain third.

The Soviets picked up another gold in the women's 1,500 metres, Rawlija Agletdinova winning from compatriot Tatjana Samolenko. Doima Melinte, the fastest over the distance in the world this year, had to be content with the bronze.

Igor Paklin, the Soviet world record holder, won the men's high jump with 2.34 metres, followed by countryman Sergei Maltchenko, with West Germany's Carlo Thraenhardt in third place.

Romas Ubartas of the Soviet Union won the men's discus with a heave of 67.08 metres. In a clean sweep for the Soviets, Gansadi Kolmooschenko won the silver and Vachovas Kidikas the bronze.

Hartwig Gauder of East Germany overtook Vladimir Iwanenko of the Soviet Union in the last five kilometres to win the

men's 50-kilometre walk.

Another Soviet, Valeri Snizov, won the bronze.

Meanwhile, Said Aouita, the extraordinary Moroccan who already holds the world 1,500 and 5,000 metres records, will attempt the mile record Tuesday night as the European athletics circuit enters its final stage.

Aouita has twice this season just missed the 3,000 world best and was the victim of over-enthusiastic early pacemaking when he attempted to break Cram's world mile mark of three minutes 46.32 seconds in West Berlin on Aug. 15.

With attention focused on the highly successful European championships which concluded Sunday, Aouita has been out of the limelight recently.

But if he is in anything like his best form the little Moroccan could light up the end of the northern season which climaxes with the Grand Prix final in Rome on Sept. 10.

The 25-year-old Olympic 5,000 champion has modified his original aim to hold the world record for every distance from 800 metres to the marathon.

But he is easily the most versatile athlete of modern times and the right conditions plus more intelligent pacemaking could see him at least set a world mark this year to add to the two he picked up last season.

American James Robinson, a specialist over 800 metres, looks the likely pacemaker.

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## 5 injured in Durban bomb blast; Pretoria names 9,337 detainees

JOHANNESBURG, South Africa (AP) — A bomb exploded Monday afternoon in front of a counter in a grocery store in a middle-class white suburb of Durban, injuring at least five people, according to an ambulance service.

Two ambulances were sent to the Montclair Shopping Centre, but no further details were available. Most of those injured were Indians, said a source at the scene.

The government has detained 9,337 people for more than a month under its national emergency, according to a new list of names delivered to parliament on Monday by the minister of law and order.

The new list of 786 names in addition to 8,551 names reported to parliament on Aug. 18. The reports on people detained for more than 30 days are required under the public safety act which is the basis for the emergency powers.

The minister, Louis Le Grange, did not say how many people on the Aug. 18 list had been released since then, or how many people have been arrested and held for less than 30 days. So it is doubtful that 9,337 is the exact number of people currently in detention.

When the government reported the 851 last month, several monitoring groups had said the total in detention was probably much more. Most of those detained have not been charged.

Gasoline bombers killed a 12-year-old black girl and injured two black women in an attack on their home in eastern Cape

province, the government's Bureau for Information reported Monday.

The attack took place at 9 P.M. (1900 GMT) Sunday in Tanti, near Grahamstown, the bureau said. It also reported a 30-year-old black man was burned to death with a fire around his neck in a Soweto neighbourhood on Sunday afternoon.

The reports brought the known death toll from unrest to at least 284 since the state of emergency was declared on June 12.

The government said no unrest occurred in 14 of the nation's 19 police divisions in the 24-hour period ending at 6 a.m. Monday, but the most incidents occurred in the eastern Cape.

The town councillor from the Soweto district worst hit by last week's violence has taken refuge in a Johannesburg apartment but says he won't resign his post, the Sowetan newspaper reported Monday.

"There is nothing wrong with the council, and I will resign only when the people who elected me tell me to quit," Johnson Mokoena told the Sowetan, the country's largest-circulation black-oriented newspaper.

One Soweto councillor was hacked to death by youths Tuesday night during the violence

in which police shot dead 20 other blacks, most of them in Mokoena's white city neighbourhood. The homes of two other councillors reportedly were burned down.

Mr. Mokoena and several members of the Soweto Town Council, fearing further attacks against them or their families, have fled the township and — with the permission of the Johannesburg City Council — taken refuge in apartments in a neighbourhood officially off-limits to blacks.

The Soweto council, like its counterparts in many other black townships, is viewed by many residents as siding with the white-led central government. The council's unpopular decision to start evicting families participating in a widespread rent boycott was one of the principal factors behind the outbreak of violence.

City Press, a black weekly newspaper, reported Sunday that 27 of the 32 Soweto councillors had fled. The Sowetan said it found five of the councillors at an apartment building in Johannesburg's Fordsburg neighbourhood, but it did not give its own overall estimate of how many councillors had left Soweto.

In another development, the country's largest anti-apartheid coalition, the United Democratic Front (UDF), called on the Liberal Progressive Federal Party (PFP) to pull out of parliament in protest against the government.

The UDF praised the white

opposition party's decision to reduce parliamentary cooperation with the governing National Party and to partially boycott debates. But it urged the PFP, which has called the current session of parliament a farce, to go a step further by withdrawing completely.

Business Day, South Africa's main financial daily, said the National Party's refusal to debate the Soweto violence in parliament illustrated the government's belief "that nasty things will go away if nobody talks about them."

"Government does not know what is happening in the country, because it has put its own eyes out," said Business Day in an editorial.

"Who tells the state president the truth? Not the press, which is either forbidden to do so or hampered. Not his party members, for obvious reasons of sycophancy. Not the SABC (the state-run South African Broadcasting Corp.), which has a policy of not doing so. Not black leaders who, if they have not been repudiated by their own communities, generally will not meet with him."

Even the country's main pro-government English-language paper, the Citizen, chided the government in its editorial Monday.

"It must get on with its tasks with a vigour and purpose that hasn't shown for some time," the Citizen said. "For only it can bring about reform — and only reform can save this country."



Jonas Savimbi

## UNITA urges talks on pullout of foreign troops

JAMBA, Angola (AP) — Guerrilla leader Jonas Savimbi has outlined a peace offer to Angola's Marxist government, calling for negotiations on withdrawal of all foreign troops and a national unity government leading to elections.

"War is not good business. Our people want to go home and plow, go to their villages and cows," Mr. Savimbi said in an interview Sunday at his thatched-roof headquarters after making the announcement of the peace offer.

He said the "platform for peace" was developed at a six-day congress of the National Union for the Total Independence of Angola — UNITA. Some 2,000 delegates from all 16 provinces in the embattled southern African country attended the congress, according to Mr. Savimbi.

He said unofficial talks had taken place in London and Paris with representatives of President Eduardo Dos Santos' government, but government authorities have denied any contacts with the rebels.

Both UNITA and Mr. Dos Santos' Popular Movement for the Liberation of Angola (MPLA) fought for independence from Portugal. They then fought a civil war in 1975 after the country gained independence and the MPLA won, with UNITA returning to guerrilla warfare.

Cuba has an estimated 25,000 soldiers in Angola helping fight the rebels, and there are Soviet advisers working with the army.

South Africa has supported UNITA in its 11-year struggle for a power-sharing agreement, and last April the United States began sending aid to the rebels.

"U.S. aid is for the purpose of promoting peaceful solution. If peace negotiations began, we would need no more aid," Mr. Savimbi said. But the Soviets would also have to stop arming his opponents, he said. "In 1975 while we were talking they were arming."

Mr. Savimbi's peace plan called for: "An official and unequivocal deposition from MPLA that it is willing to negotiate, and we will start negotiations immediately... to deal with the problems of total withdrawal of foreign troops from our country. This will lead to a calendar for withdrawal."

"Then we can declare a cease-fire between our forces and MPLA forces and all national forces will maintain the positions they have, leading to a government of national unity that will lead to peace in our country and finally to elections, so each will know the popularity it has."

## California air collision death toll climbs to 77

LOS ANGELES (R) — An army of disaster workers carrying yellow body bags sifted through gutted houses in a morning Los Angeles neighbourhood Monday for remains of victims of an air collision that police and airline officials said left up to 77 dead.

Teams spread out over a blackened square mile of houses and tree-lined streets, strewn with shoes, clothing and toys scattered by an Aeromexico DC-9 airliner as it crashed in a fiery thunderball after colliding with a private single-engine plane.

The airliner carried 58 passengers, including some off-duty crew members, and a crew of six. Three people were on the private plane.

Police said all were killed. Up to 10 people on the ground, spending a quiet Labour Day holiday week-end, died when debris smashed into their homes like shells and started fires fed by hot plane fuel, police said.

They said fifteen people were hurt, mostly by inhaling smoke. A priest gave comfort to relatives.

"It looks like a bomb hit the area," one policeman said.

Nine homes were gutted and seven damaged in the middle class neighbourhoods of Cerritos and Buena Park, 50 kilometres east of the centre of Los Angeles.

The airliner, Flight 498, had taken off from Mexico City and picked up passengers at Guadalajara, Loreto and Tijuana before beginning the final short and fatal hop to Los Angeles Airport.

"People ran out of their houses screaming, but some were not so lucky," a neighbour, Seth Grossman, said.

He and his father dragged four injured neighbours out of their burning home, but could not reach others because of the heat.

"I walked through the area and there are no bodies to speak of — small parts, bones, flesh, but nothing really identifiable. It's as though they have been through a blender," said Rob Smith, a fire department spokesman.

Two burned-out cars and a chimney stack were the only remnants of one home. A large piece of fuselage had dug itself into the garden of another.

The private plane, with two gold stripes along its white fuselage, was upside down in the playing field of Cerritos Elementary School.

A few blocks away, children happily played on swings in a park. But rescue workers said the miracle was not twice as high: Many people had gone to the

beaches or to the parks to enjoy the California sunshine and others were in church. The school was empty.

The giant Disneyland Amusement Park, only 12 kilometres from the crash scene, was packed with holidaymakers.

"My house moved as if we had been hit by an earthquake," said Mohammed Nikamal, who lived across from one of the destroyed houses. His backyard was littered with pieces of aircraft.

"The airliner flipped over on its back and dropped like a stone belly up, landing in a ball of fire," said William Chong, an eye-witness.

A 50-member investigation team from the National Transportation Safety Board was expected to arrive at the scene to investigate the cause of the collision.

In Mexico City, an airport spokesman said Aeromexico officials later flew to Los Angeles to study the circumstances of the crash. Aeromexico sources said it was not yet clear how many foreigners were aboard the airliner.

The Mexican News Agency Notimex named the pilot of the crashed plane as Arturo Valdez Prou, 39, with about 10,000 hours of flying experience.

The DC-9 was "practically new" in passenger plane terms, since it had been in operation six or seven years, the agency said.

A U.S. embassy spokesman in Mexico City said the embassy was trying to ascertain whether any U.S. citizens had been on board the crashed jetliner.

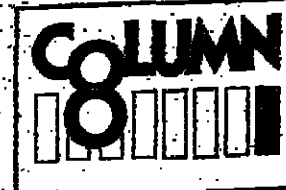
The Aeromexico Station Manager in Los Angeles, Armando Charles, said the airliner had descended to 6,200 feet (1,890 metres) and was in touch with the Los Angeles airport control tower when the collision occurred.

He said the tower had not been in touch with the private plane.

The second in command of the FBI office in Los Angeles, James Nelson, said every indication was the collision was an accident.

At Los Angeles airport, 20 people had come to meet relatives expected on the plane. Many were escorted to a nearby office in tears.

The collision was reminiscent of a similar accident over San Diego, 190 kilometres to the south, nearly eight years ago. A Pacific South West Airlines Boeing 727 and a private plane collided over the city on Sept. 25, 1978, killing all 135 people on the airliner, the crew of two on the private plane and eight on the ground.



## Priscilla Presley attacks tabloid stories

NEW YORK (R) — Priscilla Presley says Elvis' daughter is not being held hostage by a cult or dressing up in her famous father's clothes, as some tabloids have reported. Presley, who was divorced from Elvis Presley before his death on Aug. 16, 1977, said she was speaking out for the first time because she wanted to refute recent reports about her 18-year-old daughter, Lisa Marie.

"They say Lisa is brainwashed. If that means getting along with your mother, family and friends, then everybody should be brainwashed," Presley said in an interview published in People magazine.

Invitation takes 24 years to arrive

NEW DELHI (AP) — A wedding invitation sent more than 24 years ago from a bridegroom's father to the bride's family in West Bengal arrived in Calcutta last week. The marriage took place long ago, but by the time the postcard arrived last Wednesday, the bridegroom was dead. So was his father, who sent the postcard 1,000 kilometres through the Indian postal service. The Press Trust of India reported that the postcard was dated Feb. 23, 1962. But the addressee had to pay 20 paise (16 U.S. cents) to cover increased postal charges.

## Mothers in hospital mix-up agree to swap babies

DUBLIN (R) — Two Irish mothers, each given the other's new-born baby in a hospital mix-up, have agreed to swap the infants after tests ordered by the high court established which was which. A spokesman in the main hospital in Portlaoise, central Ireland, said that the results of blood and tissue tests had established the identities of the babies and the parents had agreed to exchange them. One of the mothers had insisted that the baby she nursed for five days before learning of the switch was hers. The mix-up occurred when the name-tags of two babies, born within minutes of each other 10 days ago, were inadvertently switched.

## Miss England wins 1986 Miss International beauty contest

TOKYO (AP) — Helen Fairbrother of England, who said the secret of beauty is "you should always feel joyful," has won the 1986 Miss International contest in Nagasaki. Miss Denmark, Pia Rosenberg Larsen, was the runner-up, and Miss Mexico, Ponce Leon Martha Christina Merino, placed third among the 46 contestants, who appeared before the 12 Japanese and foreign judges in swimsuits, evening gowns and national costumes. "I was very surprised. It's a sort of shock to me, but I am very happy," the 20-year-old Miss Fairbrother told reporters after being selected for the first prize of 2 million yen (\$12,900). The 178-centimetre blue-eyed blonde, now a model, said she would like to have her own dress shop in the future. Miss Larsen received 1 million yen (\$6,500) and Miss Merino 800,000 yen (\$5,200). Miss Sweden, Susanna Mari Lundmark, was chosen Miss Photogenic and received a Japanese camera.

## 4 lions recaptured after escape

DARWIN, Australia (AP) — A lion that had escaped from a nearby circus surprised the bride and groom and guests at an outdoor wedding here Saturday, Australian Associated Press reported. The lion was one of four which broke out of a cage during a matinee performance of the circus. Police said two of the lions were immediately recaptured inside the tent and a third was caught just outside. But the fourth walked across the road to the nearby Botanic Gardens and lay down under a tree — 200 metres from the startled wedding party. Marriage celebrant Dawn Lawrie told AAP: "I had just pronounced them man and wife when the cry went up, 'there is a lion in the garden.' But with tremendous aplomb, we continued to sign the marriage register, keeping an eye open for him. It had been sitting under a tree, then got up and surveyed the parkland. It looked quite at home in its surroundings."

## NATO forces practise beach landings

BARDUFOS, Norway (R) — NATO forces Monday landed on the beaches of northern Norway in a mock attack designed to deter the Soviet Union from "adventurism" on the alliance's northern flank.

Some 200 U.S. Marines took part in the landings, part of NATO's "Northern Wedding 86" exercise, securing a beachhead on the rugged fjords that would be front-line stations in times of crisis.

The Marines from the U.S. helicopter carrier Saipan, shocked by a helicopter crash on Friday in which eight men died, were the advance party for 1,000 troops who will attempt to show NATO can hold the strategically vital flank.

NATO forces from the United

States, Canada and Western Europe, have gathered for the alliance's largest maritime exercises for eight years.

The Norwegian and Barents Seas have taken on increased prominence with NATO strategists, who say the Soviet Union has dramatically increased its military strength in the area.

NATO officials taking part in the exercise say Moscow's intention, in times of crisis, would be to cut off Atlantic supply routes from the U.S. to Europe through the use of its formidable northern fleet, based at Murmansk, which contains 60 per cent of the Soviet Union's nuclear weapons.

Vice-Admiral William Fogarty, the U.S. chief of NATO's Atlantic

Strike Force, said aboard the Saipan Sunday that NATO needed a stronger presence in the Norwegian Sea and that the exercises were aimed at deterring Soviet "adventurism."

Adm. Fogarty said the loss of eight U.S. servicemen in the helicopter crash would not affect the exercise. A memorial service for the five Marines and three helicopter crew was to be held on the Saipan Monday, U.S. officials said.

After Monday's exercise, the strike force will sail to southern Norway and Denmark, where 35,000 troops will take part in landings on Norwegian soil to test NATO's ability to resist Soviet attacks from the Baltic Sea.

## Soviets, U.S. aides to discuss Afghanistan

MOSCOW (R) — Senior Soviet and U.S. officials will meet in Moscow Tuesday and Wednesday to discuss the conflict in Afghanistan in preparation for a possible superpower summit later this year.

Foreign Ministry Spokesman Gennady Gerasimov told Reuters the Soviet side would be led by Yuri Alexeyev, head of the ministry's Middle East Department.

A.U.S. embassy spokesman said Arnold Raphael, senior deputy assistant secretary for Near Eastern and South Asian affairs, had arrived in Moscow to head the American delegation.

The meeting follows U.S.-Soviet talks on regional issues in Washington last week and comes before a second meeting between top arms control experts in Washington on Friday and Saturday after similar talks in Moscow last month.

The series of U.S.-Soviet encounters is designed to prepare for talks between Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze and U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz on Sept. 19-20.

That meeting is intended to lay the groundwork for a second summit between Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev and U.S. President Ronald Reagan, who agreed in Geneva last November to meet in the United States this year. No date has been set.

U.S.-Soviet relations worsened after Moscow's 1979 military intervention in Afghanistan.

## Bolivia says calm restored, frees some detainees

LA PAZ (R) — The Bolivian government says the country is calm after the imposition of state of siege and almost half of the people detained for alleged subversion have been released.

Speaking on the independent radio station Pan-Americana, Interior Minister Fernando Barthelemy said Sunday that seven more of those arrested would be released and after their release, 71 of the 162 arrested would still be in detention.

Police arrested the 162, among them labour leaders, journalists and leftist political leaders, on Thursday hours after President Victor Paz Estenssoro imposed the state of siege to clamp down on what he called a conspiracy to liquidate his government.

Mr. Barthelemy said the detainees had been "involved in subversive activities that were creating disorder and were designed to provoke chaos and anarchy."

The siege was imposed as 7,000 tin miners, protesting at government plans to close at least two mines in the face of plummeting tin prices, began a march on the capital from the mining centre of Oruro, 200 kilometres to the south.

They were stopped by heavily-armed troops and tanks 80 kilometres south of La Paz. Miners leader Filemon Escobar said Sunday march leaders decided to turn back to avoid bloodshed.

Mr. Paz Estenssoro accused political opponents of planning to take advantage of the miners' protest to topple his 13-month-old government.

Tin is the backbone of the economy, burdened by a \$4.9 billion foreign debt, but the cost of producing the metal in Bolivia is up to five times the current world price.

The government has said it will close at least two of the country's 24 tin mines as part of a restructuring programme.

## No major damages in Romania earthquake

BUCHAREST (Agencies) — Cleanup teams were carrying away fallen masonry from the streets Monday, but the strong earthquake over the weekend did not appear to have caused major damage or casualties. There were no confirmed reports of death or serious injury, and Western diplomats who have been making independent damage assessments said the official version appeared

accurate, despite rumours of some deaths. "From what we've seen... it appears that we didn't get the worst of it," one Western diplomat in the city told the AP's Vienna bureau by telephone. The worst damage appeared to be in the neighbouring Soviet Republic of Moldavia, and the official Soviet news agency TASS said there had been casualties there but did not say how many.

## GOREN BRIDGE

BY CHARLES GOREN AND OWAN SHARIF  
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### COMBINE YOUR CHANCES

Both vulnerable, South deals.

NORTH  
♠ 4  
♥ A 6 3  
♦ A K Q 5 2  
♣ 5 4 3 2

WEST EAST  
♠ Q 8 5 3 ♠ K 7 6  
♥ K Q 10 4 2 ♥ 9 8 7  
♦ 8 ♦ J 10 9 7 4 3  
♣ 10 9 7 ♣ 8

SOUTH  
♠ A J 10 9 2  
♥ J 5  
♦ 6  
♣ A K Q J 6

The bidding:  
South West North East  
1 ♠ Pass 2 ♠ Pass  
3 ♠ Pass 3 ♠ Pass  
4 ♠ Pass 6 ♠ Pass

Opening lead: King of ♠

We are indebted to Jean-Paul Meyer, editor of "Le Bridgeur," for this deal. Cover the East-West hands and decide how you would tackle six clubs after the lead of the king of hearts. Trumps are 3-1.

Once South showed the strength

for a high reverse with his bid of three clubs, North was slow to bound. He cue-bid his ace of hearts en route in case that card was what his partner needed for a grand slam.

Obviously, you should win the ace of hearts and draw three rounds of trumps. If diamonds are 4-3, you can claim your slam, so next you cash three high diamonds, sluffing a heart and a spade from hand. Unfortunately, West shows out on the second diamond. What now?

All you need to land your slam is to find West with one of the missing spade honors. Cash the ace of spades and lead the jack. If West does not cover, discard from dummy. East wins and returns a red card, which you ruff. Now lead the ten of spades. If West does not cover, discard from dummy to repeat the ruffing finesse, which wins. You can ruff your last spade on the table.

It's an excellent slam. You lose only if diamonds break 5-2 or worse and if East has both missing spade honors guarded at least once. The combined odds are better than 80 percent.